

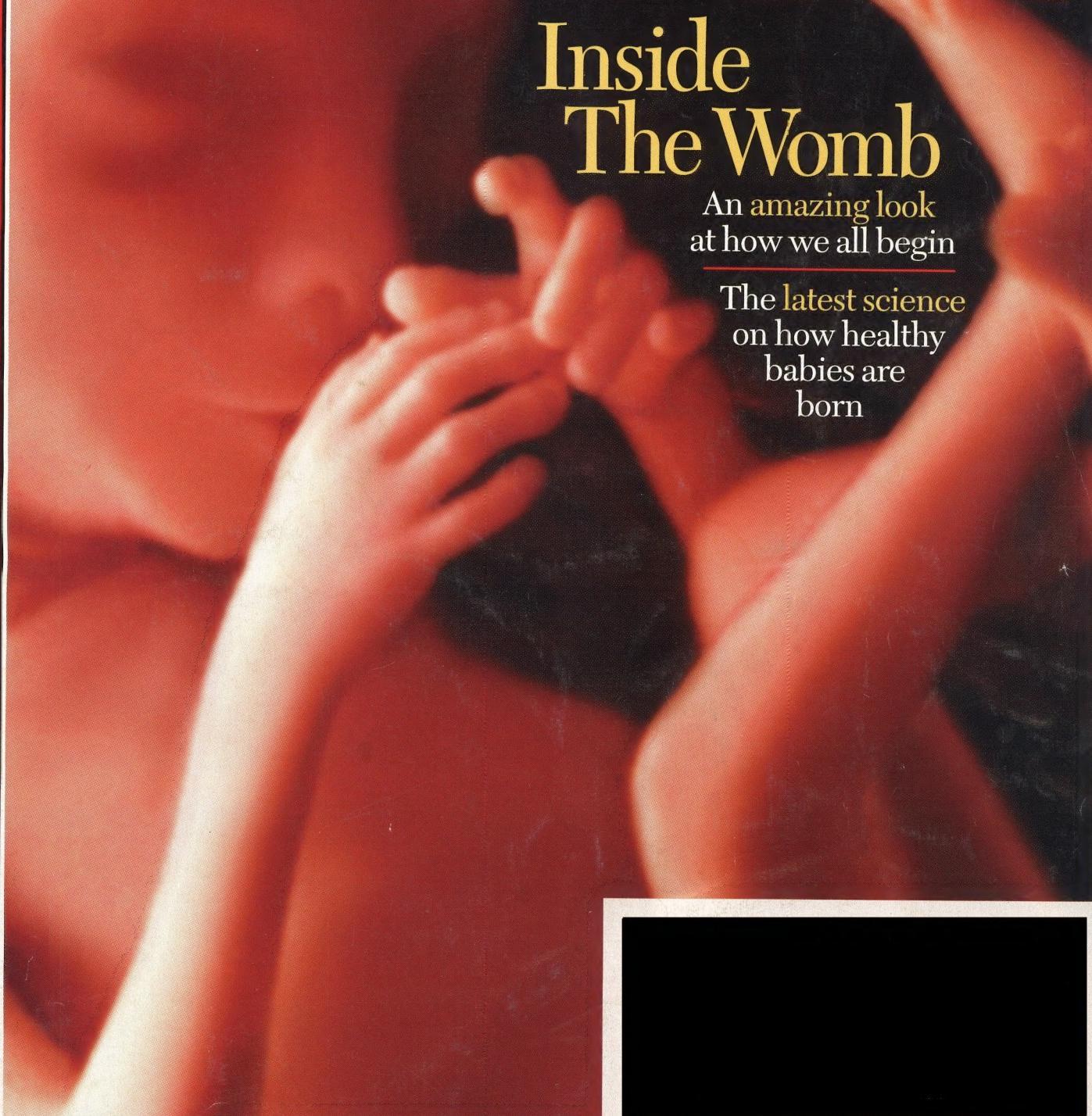
# TIME

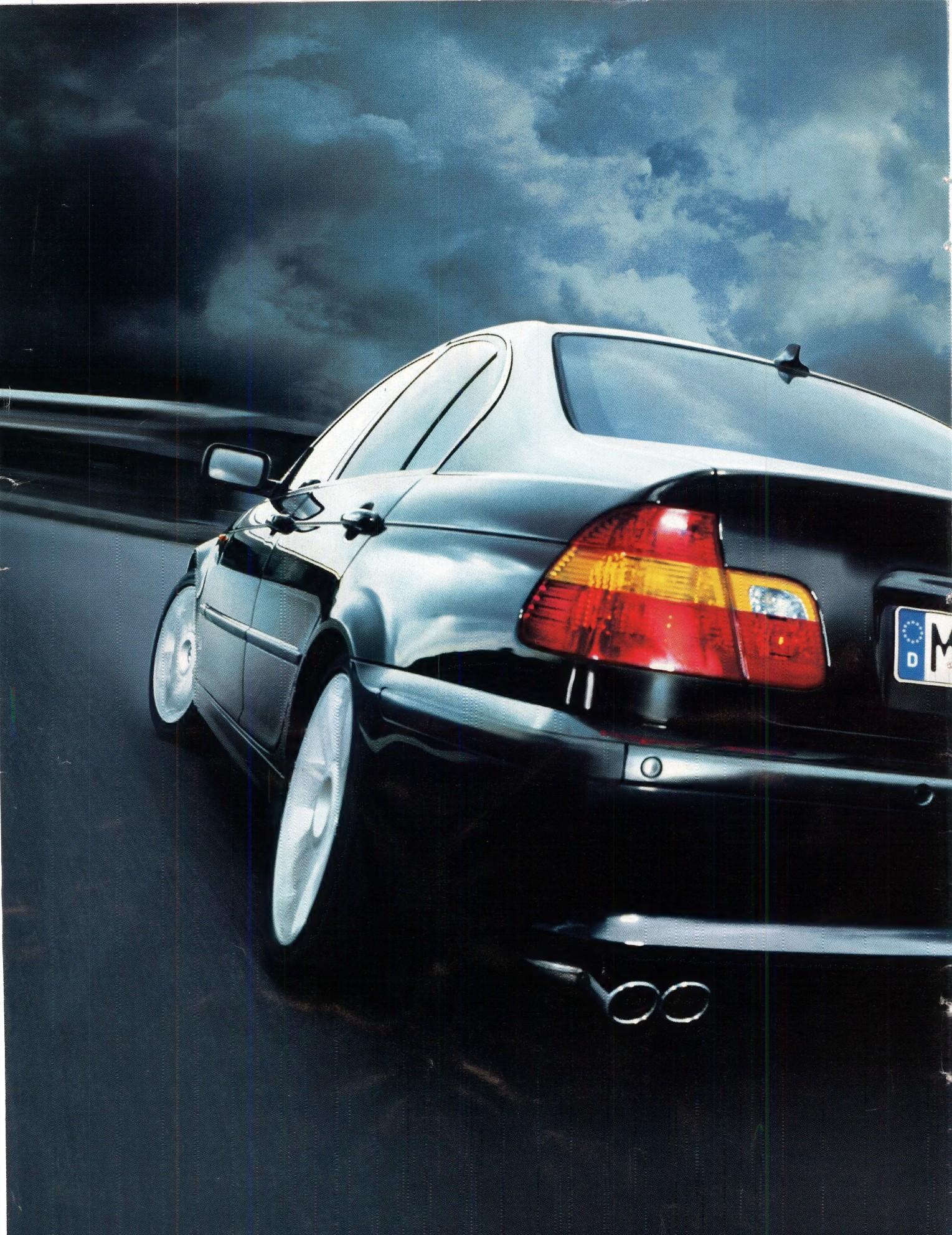
SPECIAL REPORT

## Inside The Womb

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The latest science  
on how healthy  
babies are  
born







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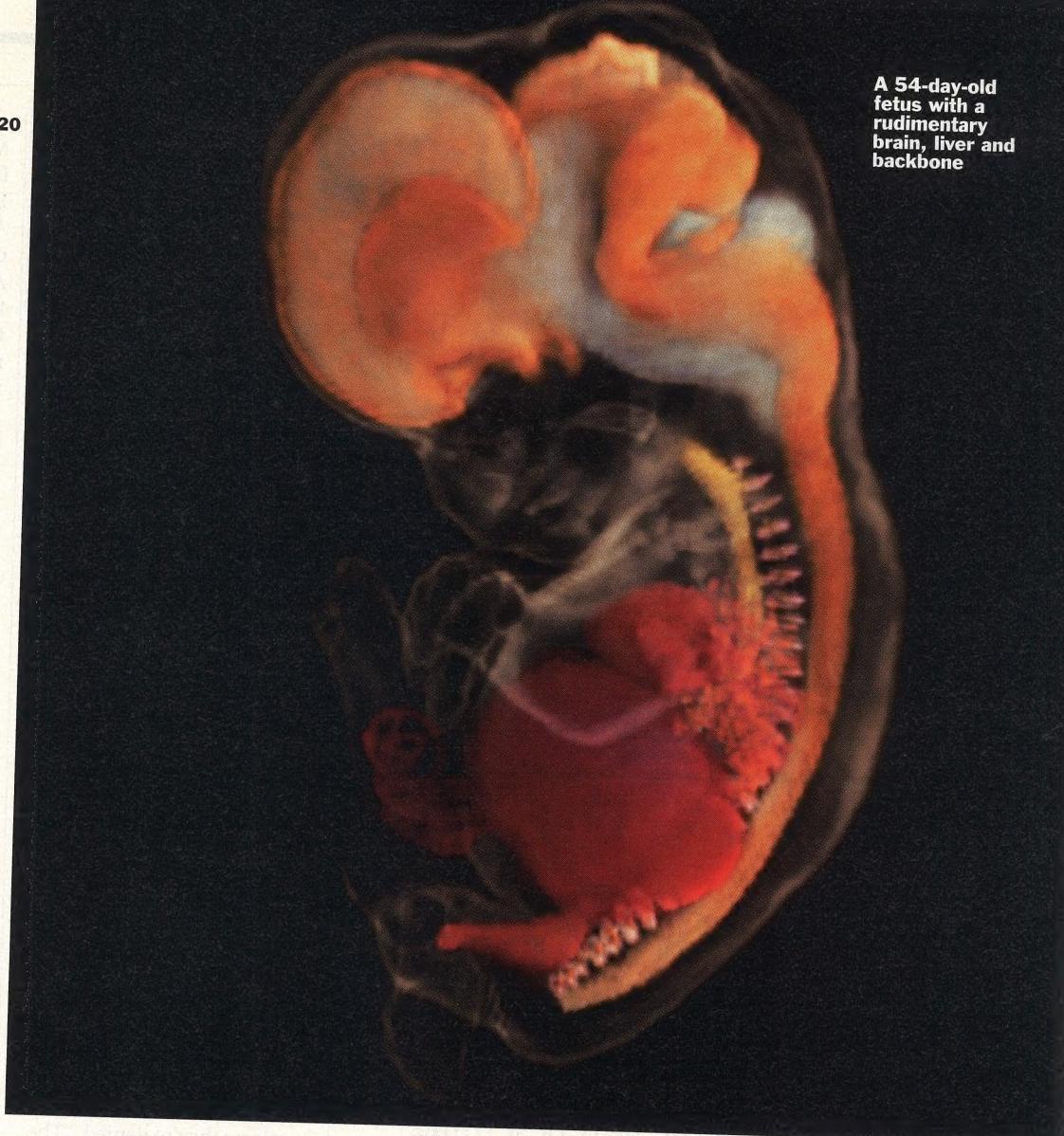


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A 54-day-old fetus with a rudimentary brain, liver and backbone



**COVER:**  
**SCIENCE**

## Inside the Womb

An astonishing new set of pictures captures embryonic life in vivid color. What researchers are learning about those first weeks of development could be essential for health before birth—and long into adult life

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**COVER:** Photograph by Alexander Tsiaras with the National Museum of Health and Medicine and the AFIP



ASLOON ARFA/PANOS FOR TIME

Patrons get a taste of the U.S. at Tehran's Super Star burger joint

## LETTER FROM IRAN

Azadeh Moaveni/Tehran

# How the "Great Satan" Became Just Great

Iranians want freedom, but until then American stuff is the next best thing

ONE OF THE HOTTEST shops in Tehran these days sits on a treelined street in the fashionable district of Elahieh. Its name is too risqué, by local standards, to be displayed on the storefront. Instead, gilt letters spell it out on a dusky rose wall inside: Victoria's Secret. Iranian women flock here to rapturously fawn over delicate silk negligees, lace underwear and other fripperies that are available nowhere else in the Islamic Republic. While the franchise is fake, the goods are authentic. So the shop offers Iranian women a twofold illicitness: sexy lingerie that

flagrantly violates Islamic notions of modesty, plus a MADE IN THE U.S.A. label. "What kind of underwear this is I don't know," says a bemused waiter at the coffee shop next door, as he watches young women stream past.

Victoria's Secret Tehran is just the raciest manifestation of the growing popularity of American products in Iran. While elsewhere in the Middle East consumers are boycotting American goods to protest U.S. foreign policy, Iranians can't get enough of them. Coca-Cola's exports to Iran have increased nearly threefold this year. Toy stores are struggling

to keep up with the growing demand for Barbie dolls.

Not even President George W. Bush's branding of Iran as part of an "axis of evil" has cooled Iranians' ardor for U.S. products. Restive young people, tired of the constrained social life prescribed in Iran, associate brand-name icons of American culture with the freedoms they're denied. "The labels remind them of the lifestyle they crave and see on MTV," says Mina Bahrami, a mother of two teenagers. Iranians embrace products of the "Great Satan" as one small way to register their discontent with the religious conservatives who control their country.

"Why do I only drink Coke?" asks Goudarz Amini, 13. "Because if it's not from here, it represents something better."

Elsewhere in the region, the Arab boycott of U.S. goods—a protest against Washington's support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians—has gathered enough momentum so that

sales at fast-food chains like McDonald's and KFC have fallen precipitously. But Iranians, who are Persians, not Arabs, are less emotionally connected to the plight of the Arab Palestinians. As hostility toward the U.S. grows throughout the Arab world, the majority of Iranians remain remarkably pro-American. According to a recent poll, 65% feel Iran should re-establish ties with the U.S.

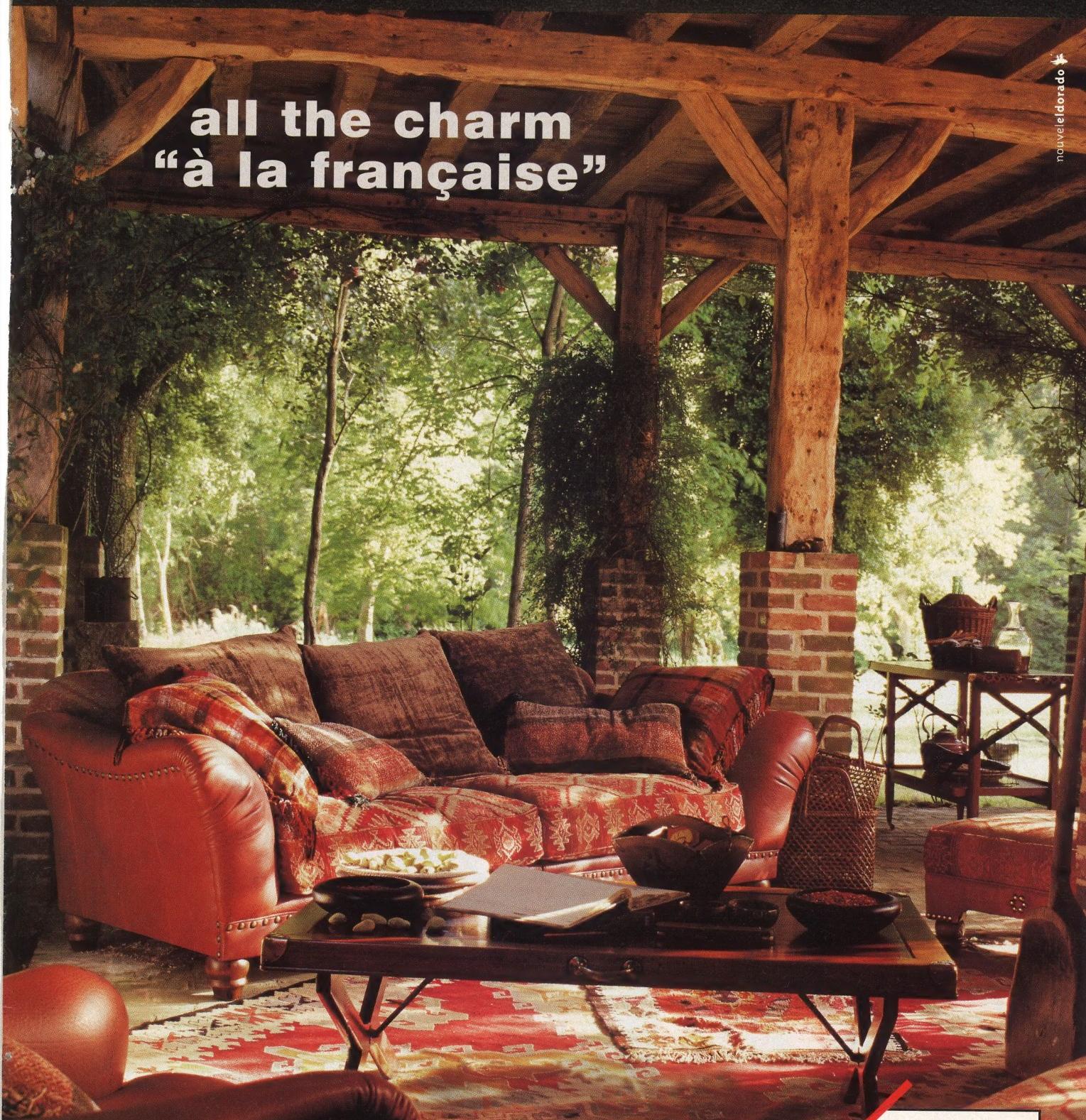
Hard-liners complain that Iranians are sullying themselves with U.S. soft drinks and "American sandwiches," as a conservative paper disdainfully referred to hamburgers. In a quest to provide a homegrown alternative to Barbie, the government launched Dara and Sara dolls, clothed modestly in traditional garb. The dolls proved so unpopular that toy stores in Tehran don't bother to carry them anymore, though the pink boxes of authentic Barbies still fly off the shelves.

While Islamic Barbie failed, Iranian fast-food outlets modeled on American burger chains are succeeding. At Tehran's Super Star, which imitates the American franchise Carl's Jr., smiling employees wear polo shirts monogrammed with the Carl's Jr. star, THANK YOU is printed on the swinging door of the trash can, and a comments box solicits complaints. The only design element that would be out of place in an authentic branch is the discreet plaque reminding customers to PLEASE RESPECT ISLAMIC MORALS. When rumor spread that Super Star procured its buns from an American burger franchise in the Persian Gulf, the crowds only grew. "We're totally overwhelmed," says a manager. "Next we're going to open a KFC like Tehran has never seen."

**"The labels remind them of the lifestyle they crave." —MINA BAHRAMI, mother of two**

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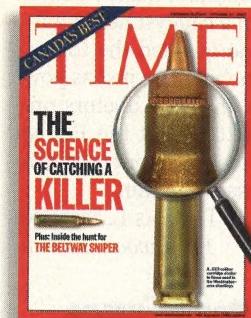
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## LETTERS



### The Hunt for a Killer

**“Ten snipers scattered around the 50 states could be just as terrible as the 19 suicide hijackers were.”**

SUZANNE MARKOV  
Rochester, New York

THERE ARE TOO MANY GUNS IN THE U.S. [Oct. 21]. Americans should think about a society like Japan's, in which the possession of handguns by ordinary people is strictly prohibited. It's time for Americans to learn how to eliminate firearms from their society.

KATZ TOMONO  
Tokyo

SHOULD THERE BE A BALLISTICS REGISTRY for firearms to help catch snipers? Critics say the pattern the gun barrel leaves on a bullet can be changed by time or deliberate alteration. Frequent firings will wear the groove pattern, but many guns are not fired all that much. Perhaps more important, even though the pattern may change, certain other guns could still be ruled out as possible sources of a bullet, helping people prove their innocence. Do government agencies require that your car or truck be registered? Of course they do. Why not your gun too?

TOM TROTTIER  
Ottawa

THE U.S., WITH ALL ITS SOPHISTICATED arms, could not protect itself against sniper killings, yet it expects Third World countries like Indonesia or Pakistan to wage a successful war on terrorism.

MOHAMMED A. QURESHI  
Luton, England

THE EXPENSE OF COLLECTING BALLISTICS samples from every firearm and the bureaucracy required to maintain a national repository of owner information cannot be justified. The system would be useless in tracing the current owner of a stolen gun, and the percentage of shooting cases solved by such a system would be extremely small. How would ballistics samples be collected from the millions of guns already in existence? Law-abiding

gun owners and taxpayers in general would be far more adversely affected than the criminals by such a procedure.

RAY EVANS  
Perry, Florida

THE WASHINGTON BELTWAY SNIPER SHOOTINGS are a unique kind of terrorism. If repeated in other places around the U.S., such shootings could paralyze the entire populace and destroy our economy just as effectively as massive assaults. Ten snipers scattered around the 50 states could be just as terrible as the 19 suicide hijackers were.

SUZANNE MARKOV  
Rochester, New York

IF WE AMERICANS CANNOT ADDRESS THE issue of controlling assault weapons ourselves, perhaps the U.N. should adopt a resolution to send weapons inspectors to the U.S. and demand regime changes in the N.R.A. and the states where its money has helped elect politicians.

LEONARD STASTNY  
Memphis, Tennessee

WHATEVER THE U.S. IS DOING CONCERNING gun regulation isn't working. This problem is getting out of control. People shouldn't have to live in fear. What kind of free nation is this? All Americans have to start asking themselves these questions: Do I really need a gun in my house? Is it worth risking the safety of any other person? Only well-trained law-enforcement officials with legitimate reasons should carry guns.

VITH HOMSOMBATH  
Boston

### Battle Plans

YOUR REPORT ON THE WEAPONS THAT THE U.S. could use in a war with Iraq [Oct. 21] noted that Iraq's best shot would be to

deploy weapons of mass destruction. While Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons against Iran, today his troops probably couldn't even get close enough to deliver them, except maybe by launching Scud missiles. So what would be a possible Iraqi gambit? If the U.S. began military operations to soften up Iraq, Saddam would quickly ask the U.N. to send in weapons inspectors. He would then show the inspection team he doesn't have any weapons of mass destruction. There would be an international outcry to remove the sanctions and force the U.S. to pay reparations for any damage done. The U.S. needs the inspectors to go in before we attack.

JAMES HARRIS  
Atlanta

SADDAM IS A DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE world. Bush should, however, take a look at history. Remember the Vietnam War? With all its powerful military might, the

### A HIDDEN, TWISTED SIDE



CORBIS/BETTMANN  
The climate of fear created by the Beltway sniper killings in the Washington area [Oct. 21] resembled the terror that gripped New York City when David

Berkowitz, known as Son of Sam, killed six people and wounded seven others in a string of shootings. When he was captured, TIME profiled the gunman [Aug. 22, 1977]:

“Berkowitz, 24, a U.S. mail sorter, was captured by police and identified as the lone gunman who had terrified much of New York in a yearlong series of eight nighttime attacks in quiet residential neighborhoods. But ... the killer of six young people ... did not fulfill public expectations of the type of man who would automatically arouse suspicion, fear and hate ... RATHER THAN SINISTER, BERKOWITZ LOOKED INNOCUOUS, AN UNEXCEPTIONAL FIGURE unlikely to attract attention anywhere ... But then that twisted side of the mild-mannered killer's mentality exposed itself. Why, why had he murdered? 'It was a command,' he said in a soft, nonaggressive voice. 'I had a sign and I followed it. Sam told me what to do and I did it' ... Who is Sam? Berkowitz said Sam is at the moment a neighbor of his named Sam Carr, but 'really is a man who lived 6,000 years ago. I got the messages through his dog. He told me to kill. Sam is the Devil.' ”

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U.S. had to withdraw from Vietnam in shame. How will the U.S. be able to leave behind a stable government in Afghanistan? Americans will suffer disaster there, and I don't think they will last as long as the Soviets did.

DANIEL HEINRICH

Winnipeg

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD BE APPLAUSED for taking a courageous stand against Saddam's regime and its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. As the President noted to the nation, the riskiest option for dealing with Iraq is to do nothing. Inaction would only give Saddam time to complete his malicious pursuit of nuclear weapons and would embolden tyrants and terrorists everywhere. Acting now to disarm Saddam, using military force if necessary, is the only way we will keep America safe.

JAMIE M. WHITE

Eldorado, Illinois

### When Harry Dissed Colin

ALTHOUGH SINGER HARRY BELAFONTE once profitably recorded *The Banana Boat Song* for the entertainment of a largely white audience, he recently raised the clichéd but still inflammatory specter of the house Negro to criticize the actions of Secretary of State Colin Powell [Oct. 21]. Your reporting stated blandly that Powell's dignified response of calling the slave reference "unfortunate" made Belafonte's comment seem extreme, as if it weren't extreme in its own right. For my money, what Belafonte said was racist, ridiculous, cruel and downright stupid.

ANDREW E. DANIELS  
Hickory, North Carolina

SOMEBODY SHOULD GIVE BELAFONTE A lesson in civics. With his criticism of Powell, Belafonte has totally confused the roles of elected politicians and Cabinet members. As for Belafonte's metaphor of slavery days, everybody serving in Bush's Cabinet has the privilege of living in the master's house.

WHIT BROUSSARD  
Ottawa

### Medical Miracle?

YOU REPORTED THAT AN INDIAN WOMAN, Monica Besra, believes her abdominal tumor was healed by a miracle performed posthumously by Mother Teresa [Oct. 21]. You noted that her husband believes it was medicine, not a miracle, that

cured her. Even if the medal bearing an image of Mother Teresa wasn't responsible for a miracle, couldn't Besra's faith in the nun have been a catalyst helping the medication that vanquished the tumor? It could be that one's faith is just as powerful a remedy as anything doctors prescribe. And no matter what the Roman Catholic Church decides about beatification, Mother Teresa was a saint.

THOMAS L. STEVENS  
Englewood, Florida

### They Do It Better in Europe

TO GET OVER HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH the dryly academic Museum of Sex in New York City [Oct. 21], Joel Stein should get to the Sex Museum in Amsterdam. It'll really knock his socks off. With its collection of erotic objets d'art dating from the Roman period, this is a museum where old and young alike try both to satisfy and to conceal their voyeuristic sides. The only academic thing about this place is the word museum in its name.

ANDREW LONNGREN  
Harbord, Australia

### CHECK US OUT ONLINE!



This week's issue of TIME and Web-only features at [timecanada.com](http://timecanada.com)



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# Desperate

More than 200 Haitian refugees jumped from a 15-m wooden boat and swam to shore at Key Biscayne, Florida. Some escaped, but the INS rounded up many, like these

WILFREDO LEE—AP



# Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS

A HEYDAY FILMS / 1492 PICTURES PRODUCTION A CHRIS COLUMBUS FILM HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS DANIEL RADCLIFFE RUPERT GRINT EMMA WATSON STARRING KENNETH BRANAGH JOHN CLEESE ROBBIE COLTRANE WARWICK DAVIS RICHARD GRIFFITHS RICHARD HARRIS JASON ISAACS ALAN RICKMAN FIONA SHAW MAGGIE SMITH JULIE WALTERS MIGUEL WILLIAMS WILLIAM FRESHFIRE PETER HORNBY A.C.E. PROPS STUART CRAVEN COSTUME DESIGNER ROGER PRATT B.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS COLUMBUS MARK RADCLIFFE MICHAEL BAENAFIAN DAVID BARROW MUSIC STEVE KLEVES DIRECTOR J.K. ROWLING WRITER CHRIS COLUMBUS

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## VERBATIM

**“Chairman Pitt has violated the First Law of Holes, which is, When you are in one, stop digging.”**

**EDWARD MARKEY,**  
Massachusetts Congressman,  
on SEC chairman Harvey  
Pitt's nomination of William  
H. Webster to head an  
accounting-oversees board

**“I see a great danger if we go it alone.”**

**WALTER CRONKITE,**  
former CBS anchor, on the  
prospect of U.S. military  
action against Iraq

**“The Queen has come through for me.”**

**PAUL BURRELL,**  
former butler to Princess  
Diana, after Queen Elizabeth  
issued a statement clearing  
him of accusations that he  
stole 310 items belonging to  
the late Princess

**“I might have made a tactical error not going to a physician for 20 years. It was one of those phobias that didn’t pay off.”**

**WARREN ZEVON,**  
rock musician, on his  
diagnosis of terminal lung  
cancer, in an interview  
with David Letterman

**“He had nothing to do with that gangsta thing.”**

**DARYL JENKINS,**  
record-store clerk, on the  
killing of Run-D.M.C.’s Jam  
Master Jay

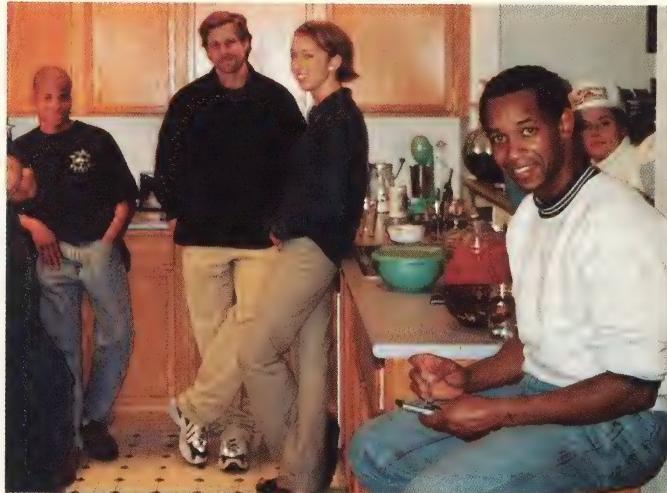
**“Your wish was to play the organ. Now you can play it for the angels.”**

**WRITTEN ON A COFFIN**  
in southern Italy, where an  
earthquake killed 29 people,  
most of them children

Sources: Wall Street Journal; AP; Washington Post; CBS; New York Times (2)

## The Sniper Trail Grows

**T**HE MURDER SPREE THAT paralyzed some Washington suburbs for three weeks may have begun months earlier with a string of violent crimes stretching from Washington State to the Southeastern U.S. Police chiefs in Tacoma, Washington, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, announced last week that the two men charged in the sniper shootings, John Allen Muhammad, 41, and Lee Malvo, 17, may be linked to other killings. These crimes, however, seem to have been committed at closer range than the Washington-area murders. Like the failed liquor-store robbery in Montgomery, Alabama, that provided authorities with the case’s first major break, the Baton Rouge murder appears to have been about money; the killers robbed a woman as she closed her beauty-supply shop. The Tacoma shooting took place at the home of a friend of Muhammad’s ex-wife who had sided with her in their divorce. Task-force investigators have also tied



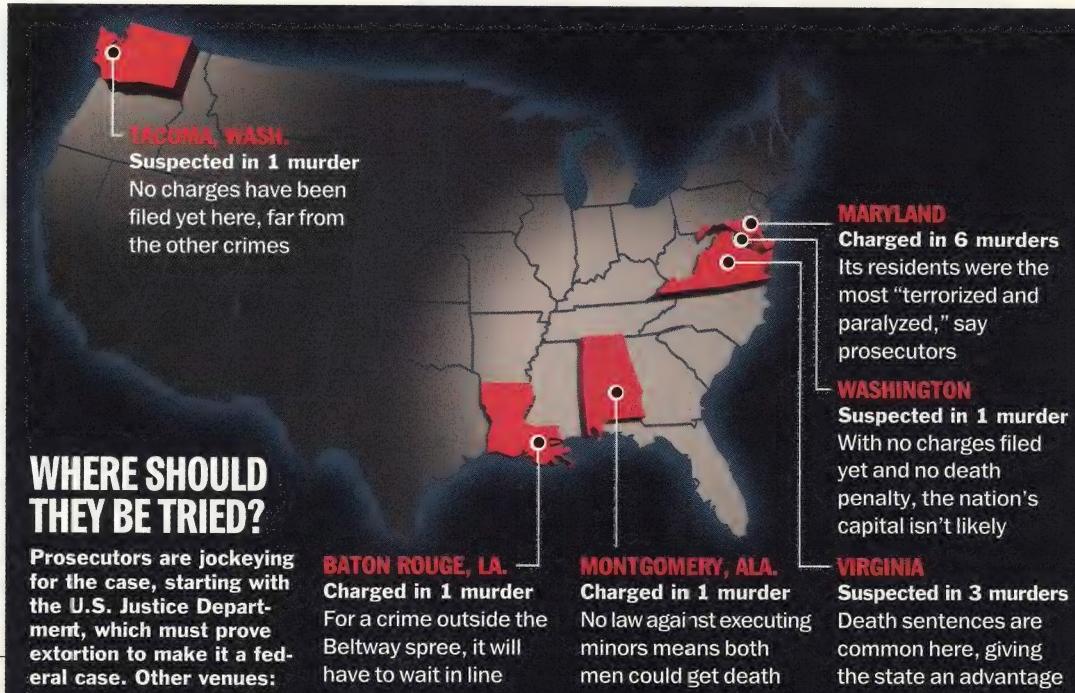
**SUSPECTS** Muhammad, right, and Malvo, far left, relaxing last April at a barbecue at a student’s home in Bellingham, Washington

the suspects to the shooting of a liquor-store clerk in Silver Spring, Maryland, more than two weeks before the sniper wave began.

As details of these far-flung crimes unfolded, the FBI was quietly trying to bolster its evidence against the suspects in the other Washington-area shootings. Law-enforcement sources tell TIME that the FBI is testing saliva used to seal a letter left at the murder scene outside a Ponderosa steak house in Virginia for a match with either man’s DNA. At the height of the Beltway crisis, FBI sources tell TIME, the

bureau’s élite hostage-rescue team secretly paired with local SWAT teams and scattered around the region in unmarked cars. Clad in body armor and equipped with night-vision gear and secure radios, the groups were prepared to race to the scene of a shooting and arrest the killers. They never got their chance. But the increased use of these federal-local tactical teams may be one of the positive byproducts of the sniper case.

—By Rebecca Winters. Reported by Nathan Thornburgh/Seattle and Eric Roston, Elaine Shannon and Michael Weisskopf/Washington



## NO COVER FOR SHARON

The breakup of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's coalition government last week was, on the face of it, a battle over the old issue of West Bank settlements. Labor Party leader Binyamin Ben-Eliezer quit the government ostensibly because Sharon wouldn't reallocate \$145 million in settlement funding to poor towns inside Israel. In reality his resignation was motivated largely by his ambition to be re-elected head of his party. And it could have serious



**Resigned:**  
Ben-Eliezer



**Also gone:**  
Peres

implications for Israel's ability to maintain international support for its campaign against Palestinian terrorists.

Sharon's coalition has depended heavily on the presence of Labor to win a measure of international support for its hard-line policies.

Now, when world leaders criticize Sharon, he will no longer be able to ship off Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, one of the Labor leaders who resigned, to argue Israel's case. So long as Peres, an architect of the Oslo peace process, remained, there was hope Sharon might negotiate with the Palestinians. That's less likely now. Sharon has already offered the defense portfolio to the recently retired head of the army, Shaul Mofaz, who is hated by Palestinians for leading the big Israeli invasion of the West Bank last year.

But neither international relations nor settlement policies had much to do with the politics behind the resignation. As Defense Minister, Ben-Eliezer often came off as tougher on the Palestinians than even Sharon, and polls show that Labor Party members would probably oust him as party leader at a conference on Nov. 19. Rather than face that battle as Sharon's Defense Minister, Ben-Eliezer bolted the government to boost his liberal credentials. Sharon, meanwhile, has his own party problems. Likud leaders will meet next week to choose a party president, and Sharon's candidate is being opposed by one backed by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his chief rival. Sharon has offered Netanyahu the post of Foreign Minister just vacated by

Peres, leaving Netanyahu with a difficult choice: hitch his wagon to Sharon or lose face among the party faithful by declining to step up in a moment of crisis.

—By Matt Rees

**The Prime Minister after the breakup**



Megawati surveys the scene of the Bali bombings

EDY PURNOMO—GETTY IMAGES

## After Bali: Waffling

AFTER THE BOMBINGS IN Bali, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri seemed finally to grasp the seriousness of the terrorism threat in her country. She rushed to the scene of the tragedy, pushed through a tough antiterror presidential decree and permitted the arrest of Abubakar Ba'asyir, the Muslim cleric suspected of being the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, which the U.S. has dubbed a terrorist organization.

Now, however, it seems Megawati has reverted to her former indecision. She has not addressed the nation to explain the direction in which she plans to take it. More crucially, she has failed to reach out for support to Indonesia's two largest Muslim organizations, her most obvious allies in reining in Islamic radicalism. Sya'ii Maarif, the chairman of one group, Muhammadiyah, initially backed the President's tough post-Bali line. Now he's backpedaling, particularly on the arrest of Ba'asyir. "I reject Ba'asyir's strategy to achieve his ideas and goals," Maarif told TIME. "But his arrest was not based on enough legal evidence. The police should not arrest people at will without strong evidence."

Part of the problem is that Megawati remains dependent on hard-line

Muslims for her political survival. Such is their stature that her Vice President, Hamzah Haz, is a longtime defender of radical Islamic groups. Earlier this month, he told reporters that he planned to visit Ba'asyir in the hospital out of a feeling of "Muslim brotherhood." (Haz changed his mind at the last minute, sending a member of his staff in his place.) As for Ba'asyir, he adamantly resisted attempts by police to question him while receiving treatment for respiratory problems at a hospital in Jakarta. Despite being bedridden, he was hearty enough last week to give caustic interviews accusing Megawati of caving in to demands from Washington for his arrest. —By Simon Elegant



### ALL SETTLED

In the end, it went pretty much the way Bill Gates predicted. A federal judge handed Microsoft a resounding win in its antitrust case, endorsing the settlement the software giant reached last year with the Justice Department and sweeping aside nearly all the stiffer sanctions sought by a coalition of state prosecutors. The ruling did burden Microsoft with a few new restrictions but the consensus among antitrust lawyers and rival companies is that Gates got off with a slap on the wrist and is now free to extend his empire to new markets such as interactive TVs and handheld devices.

DAN LEVINE—AFP

# Developing the World's MOST INNOVATIVE Technologies

## LG Electronics is the front-line of the new digital revolution

Humankind's grand vision of a future marked by cutting-edge technology which simplifies everyday life is rapidly evolving from fiction to fact. Driven by a passion to create efficient, smart electronics and appliances, LG Electronics is establishing a Digital Home Network. This high-tech system will enable you to access, program, and control your home's appliances and gadgets via your cell phone. Soon you will be able to do your laundry from your car – simply by activating your washer with your cellular device. Indeed your washing machine, your microwave

*Below: The new LG Plasma Display Panel*



Recorder will allow you to record any television show – and then play it back in DVD quality!

### The New Tag-Team in Digital Home Entertainment

LG understands that in today's hectic world, you want technology that will make your life easier. Nowhere is this more evident than in LG's creation of two of the most innovative home entertainment products ever to be designed. The LG Plasma Display Panel – with its 160-degree distortion-free wide angle of view, intelligent circuitry, and self-illu-

mination – is the pinnacle of smart design and unparalleled functionality. This unit allows all viewers in a room to see a clear picture, and does so with minimal background noise.

Partner

tion – is the pinnacle of smart design and unparalleled functionality. This unit allows all viewers in a room to see a clear picture, and does so with minimal background noise.

*Right: The new LG Personal Video Recorder*

this amazing display with its digital "teammate", the Personal Video Recorder – a recorder/player that allows you to play DVDs, CDs, CD-Roms, even MP3s. More remarkable still, this little super-device allows you to record television programs right onto its built-in 40-GB hard-drive – enabling you to watch playbacks in digital video quality, and allowing you to pause live television. This dynamic duo will keep you entertained – while accommodating your busy lifestyle – well into the future.



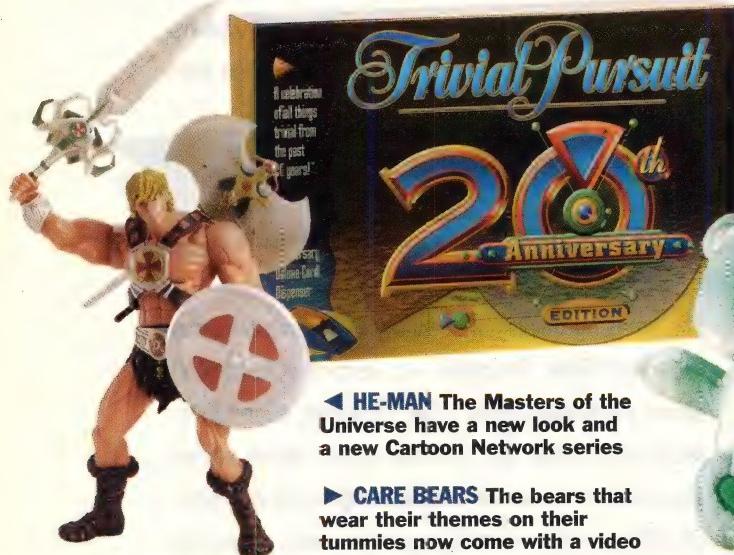
LG's Digital Home Network is the result of forward-thinking and creative innovation. It underlines the company's philosophy which emphasizes freeing people's time and making life less complicated.

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## Babes in '80s Toyland

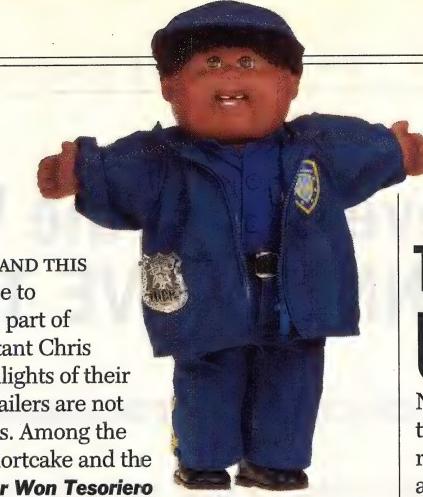
**A**SIGN THAT GEN XERS ARE GROWING UP: THEIR TOYS ARE BACK. AND THIS holiday season, industry experts expect the '80s-toy hit parade to entertain a new generation. "It's a very strategic move on the part of manufacturers to bring these back," says independent toy consultant Chris Byrne. "The appeal is the nostalgia factor. These toys are the highlights of their era." Will Reagan-era toys fly off the shelves? Hard to say, but retailers are not waiting to find out. They're already looking beyond this Christmas. Among the '80s retreads that will make a comeback next year: Strawberry Shortcake and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Cowabunga!

—By Heather Won Tesoriero



◀ HE-MAN The Masters of the Universe have a new look and a new Cartoon Network series

► CARE BEARS The bears that wear their themes on their tummies now come with a video



▲ CABBAGE PATCH KIDS New ones include a policeman and fire fighter. Same chubby faces

◀ TRIVIAL PURSUIT To mark its 20th year, the game has new categories like News and Tech



### MEDIA WATCH

## DUDE, WHERE'S MY NEWS?

If you're like me—between 18 and 34 years old—market research says you may not have a long enough attention span to finish this sentence. Print media are bleeding young readers, which has prompted publications—*Maxim*, *Blender*, *FHM*—to offer bite-size stories, so that as little text as possible gets between us and the ads. As of last week, the young and content-averse of Chicago have two daily tabloids to skim. *RedEye*, owned by the city's patrician daily the

*Tribune*, was announced first; *Red Streak*, from the *Sun-Times*, was rushed out to play catch-up. *Red Streak*, which included an article on how to cheat a drug test, is the bawdier of the two. But both tabloids—sold for 25¢ at gyms, bars,

restaurants and el stops—feature brief pieces on news (a little), sports (a lot) and celebrity skin (never enough). Many headlines seem to correspond to bullet points in a marketing memo: 11 THINGS TO KNOW (young people like lists!); NICOR'S PRICE GOOF WORTH \$7 TO YOU (young people want the "me" angle!).

The tabs are meant to be training wheels until readers are ready for the big-people papers. But they could be a training experience for the flagships, which may someday have to run Page One

articles the size of movie tickets if they want to keep those readers. Until then, the tabs provide a service: they're plenty big enough to hide a Game Boy inside. —By James Poniewozik. With reporting by Maggie Sieger/Chicago



MERRICK MORTON—DREAMWORKS



Watts, glued to the screen in *The Ring*

unheard of for a horror film—it actually took in more money its second week, for a total of \$39 million.

The film, about a videotape that causes anyone who watches it to die exactly seven days later, is a remake of a Japanese box-office hit, *Ringu*, which spawned a sequel and a prequel as well as TV and comic-book spin-offs. Its cult popularity is spreading. A screening of *Ringu* (not available in U.S. video stores) at a horror-film festival in New York City last week drew a sold-out house, even in the middle of a weekday afternoon. For the rest of us, DreamWorks will release the Japanese film on DVD next year. And will there be a *Ring* sequel? "We are certainly going to try to develop one," says Parkes.

—By Jess Cagle

Name:

Eleni Tzimis

Shade:

Herbal Essences Light Spiced Brown #55

Must Have:

MP3 tunes, my red sofa,  
spinning class, Thai chilies

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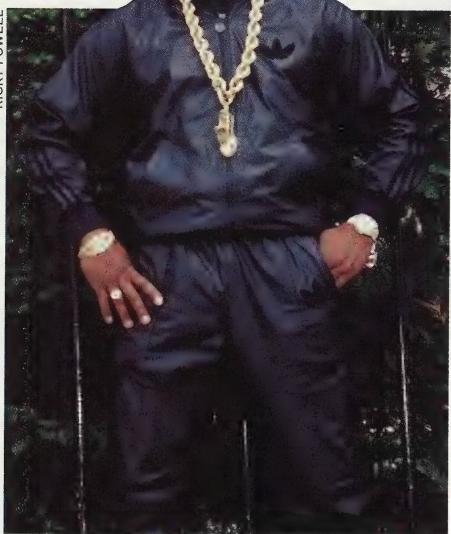


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## NOTEBOOK

### MILESTONES



RICKY POWELL

**DIED. JASON MIZELL, A.K.A. JAM MASTER JAY,** 37, jovial DJ of the boundary-breaking rap group Run-D.M.C.; of a gunshot wound to the head; in Queens, New York. Police say a gunman gained access to Mizell's studio and shot the hip-hop star at close range during a recording session. Also in the studio were five others, one of whom was shot in the leg. The possibility that Mizell's death might be linked to previous rap violence was particularly troubling to those who knew him best. He was widely hailed as the nicest man in rap, not just because he remained in his beloved Hollis, Queens, the middle-class neighborhood where he grew up but also because he was an active member of the community, paying rent for the elderly and indigent and mentoring young rappers and DJs at his Scratch DJ Academy. As a DJ in his own right, Mizell was the first to fuse rap beats with rock melodies, fueling Run-D.M.C.'s historic crossover to the pop charts and changing the sound of pop music forever.

—By Josh Tyrangiel



**BORN.** To **SARAH JESSICA PARKER**, 37, and **MATTHEW BRODERICK**, 40; a 2.95-kg son; in New York City. The actors named their firstborn James Wilke Broderick after his late grandfather.



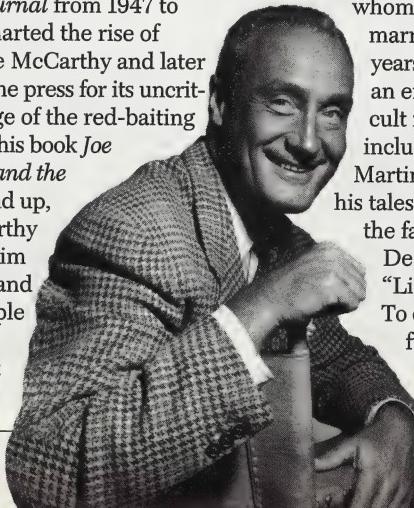
**INDICTED.**  
**ANDREW FASTOW**, 40, former chief financial officer of Enron; on 78 counts of

fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and other charges; by a grand jury in Houston. The first executive at the energy giant to be indicted, Fastow allegedly engineered an intricate web of partnerships that hid Enron's financial ills and directed millions of dollars into his pockets.

**DIED. ALINA PIENKOWSKA**, 50, unassuming shipyard nurse whose outrage over working conditions helped spur Poland's

labor movement turned political party, Solidarity; of cancer; in Gdansk. When welder Lech Walesa declared a strike in their shipyard on Aug. 14, 1980, Pienkowska defied authorities who were about to sever phone lines by immediately alerting a fellow dissident to spread the news—an act that led to hundreds of other strikes across the country. She then persuaded Walesa and others not to let down strikers in other cities by agreeing to the management's settlement offer—a decision that gave the movement its name.

**DIED. EDWIN R. BAYLEY**, 84, founding dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley; in Green Bay, Wisconsin. As chief political reporter for the Milwaukee *Journal* from 1947 to 1959, he charted the rise of Senator Joe McCarthy and later chastised the press for its uncritical coverage of the red-baiting Senator in his book *Joe McCarthy and the Press*. "Stand up, Ed," McCarthy once told him at a rally, "and let the people see what a communist looks like."

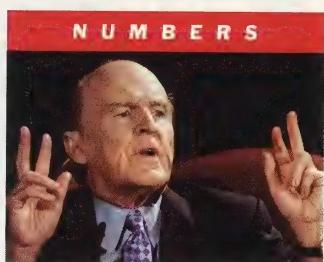


**DIED. DUKE OF BEDFORD**, 85, practical British aristocrat who converted his family's ancient estate, Woburn Abbey, into an amusement park to raise enough money to keep it in the family; in Santa Fe, New Mexico. "I do not relish the scorn of the peerage," he once said of the horror he inspired in some aristocrats. "But it is better to be looked down on than overlooked."

▼**DIED. ANDRE DE TOTH**, 89, Hungarian-born filmmaker known for westerns, war movies, film noir and the 1953 3-D classic *House of Wax*, starring Vincent Price as the murderous proprietor of a wax museum; in Burbank, California. His stylish B films, such as *Pitfall*, *None Shall Escape* and *Ramrod* (co-starring Veronica Lake, to whom he was

(continued on page 18)

married for eight years), have gained an enthusiastic cult following that includes director Martin Scorsese. Of his tales of survival in the face of menace, De Toth said, "Life is violent. To depict it truthfully can show us what not to do."



**\$357,128** Amount retired General Electric CEO Jack Welch receives each month from his GE pension, according to an affidavit filed as part of his divorce proceedings

**\$1,000** Amount of Welch's monthly Social Security check

**\$8,982** Amount Welch spends each month on food and beverages, including wine

**\$5,480** Amount he spends each month on country-club memberships

**\$35,000** Amount Welch pays to his estranged wife per month, which she claims is "patently inadequate"



**\$71** Price of a one-day lift ticket this season at the Vail ski resort in Colorado, the costliest in the U.S.

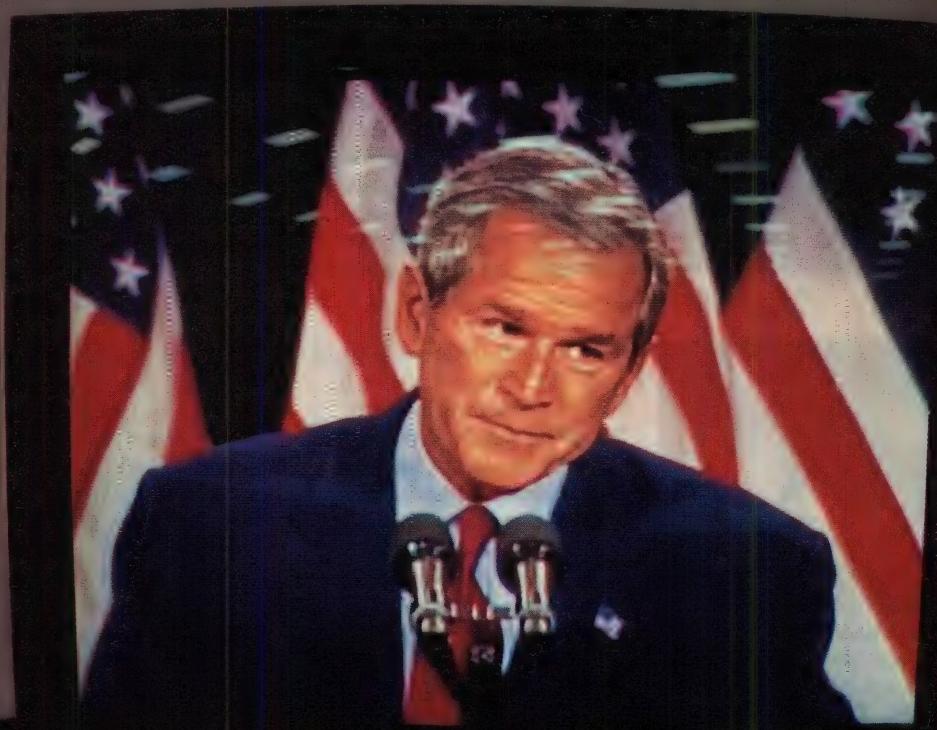
**\$8** Price of the same ticket in 1969

**17.6%** Drop in the number of cases of syphilis among U.S. women from 2000 to 2001

**15.4%** Rise in the number of cases among U.S. men in the same period

Sources: *Wall Street Journal*, *Rocky Mountain News*, ABC, Boston Globe

**SCREEN TESTS**  
The President  
has frequently  
altered his Iraq  
pitch to try to  
win support



UNITED STATES

# Trust Me, He Says

In confronting Iraq, George W. Bush  
is writing a new compact with  
Americans. A look at the fine print

By NANCY GIBBS and MICHAEL DUFFY

DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON CLARITY AND daylight; diplomacy is all about secrets and fog. So how can a President show enough cunning to outwit the enemy but enough candor to lead the folks at home?

It may be hard to follow George W. Bush's path to Baghdad because he is walking down two roads at once. The only way diplomacy can succeed is if Bush is fully prepared for it to fail. So word spreads that his generals are planning to mount a military exercise in the Persian Gulf in December and to call up more than 250,000 reserves in the event of war—even as his diplomats are hard at work on a United Nations resolution designed to show Saddam Hussein what he must do to avoid one. For Bush, a convincing threat would cost less than a battle; rattling a saber is smarter than simply using one. If Bush can draw the line and enlist the allies and persuade Saddam to disarm and leave town, he could conceivably prevail without launching a single sortie.

Thus has it gone for the past few months, as the President simultaneously plans for war and

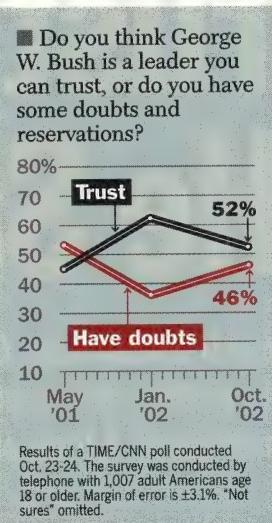
## UNITED STATES

talks of peace and sounds willing to go either way. From where Bush sits, if Hussein folds under international pressure, it will mean a crisis defused, though maybe only temporarily. On the other hand, if it comes to war, having the U.N. on board means more troops to fight with, fewer friends for Saddam to run to and more help rebuilding the country after the shooting stops. And even if the U.S. ends up fighting virtually alone, Bush will be able to say he at least tried the alternatives. The President sounds impatient when he tells the U.N. to act or get out of the way, which among other things is a steely way of keeping all his options open.

The target audience for all this diplomatic effort is not overseas; it is in the U.S. "It is important for the American people to see that before you order their sons and daughters into battle, you have done everything you can to find a solution," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice tells TIME. The President "is not anxious to go to war. He is prepared to go, but if there is another solution, he is more than prepared to take it." Even Bush's supporters privately concede that while most Americans trust the President to fight the war on terror, they are much more skeptical about launching a new military adventure. And less than one-third of Americans surveyed in a TIME/CNN poll say they are willing to go along without the U.N.'s blessing. In recent weeks, support for the President has been drifting down as concerns over war and the economy rise. Only half the American people, the poll suggests, now feel they can trust Bush to handle Iraq.

After a year in which America's sense of security has been shattered—by bombers and snipers, crashing markets and predator priests and all the other sorry, scary stories of the season—it takes enormous confidence for a President to plunge ahead. He is contemplating something much riskier than even his father tried—to launch an invasion, a pre-emptive one, of a heavily armed nation in the most perilous part of the world. Just a few months ago, there was no hint that two-thirds of Americans would believe the country is going to war. Many are still trying to figure out why: Why pick this fight, with this enemy, at this time? Everyone gets a chance to make a judgment, but the President gets to make the decision. Bush is about to launch his greatest faith-based initiative—and the world is asked to trust him to get it right. What are the terms of that bargain?

**A**T SOME POINT RECENTLY, IN THE BACKROOMS OF the U.N. and in capitals around the world, a debate that the U.S. wanted to be about Saddam and his weapons turned out to be one about Bush and his instincts. The President's red alert on Iraq is what hastened the U.N.'s effort to send weapons inspectors back to Baghdad—but the threats that were designed to scare America's enemies frightened its allies as well. They hear beneath Bush's words a new Manifest Destiny, in



which the world's lone superpower obeys only the laws that suit it and respects only the nations that resemble it.

Since the start of this year, Bush has blown through door after door. He moved past the unfinished war on terrorism, cracked open a doctrine of "pre-emptive defense," stymied the opposition and manhandled the evidence—all in the service of a mission that may begin and end with Saddam Hussein but may go even further. It's hard to quarrel with Bush when he declares that "if we fight terror, we can achieve peace ... not only for America; we can achieve peace in parts of the world where some have quit on peace." But the more messianic people around him imply something much bigger. Transplanting democracy to a region where it has never taken root would be every bit as historic



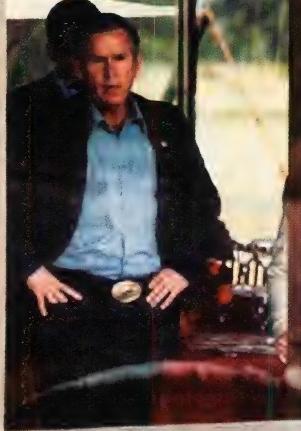
**NOT ON BOARD** As the Administration's rhetoric heats up, antiwar protesters, like these in Washington, take to the streets

as Reagan's pledge to confront the "evil empire," America's values and interests could at last cohere: America could fire Saudi Arabia as its Arab proxy unless it changes its medieval ways, jump-start the Middle East peace process and spark an outbreak of secular prosperity, so that the soil becomes less hospitable to the next generation of Osama bin Ladens. The emirs aren't quite ready for those talking points, but some true believers in Bush Land have dreamed of them for years.

These are laudable goals, but trying to achieve them could mean detonating the entire Middle East and wrecking the American economy, estranging America's allies and enraging its

enemies. It could mean nonstop al-Jazeera TV footage not of Iraqis welcoming G.I.s in the streets but of fighting them while the world's jihadists cheer and moderate Muslim leaders either crack down hard or are toppled themselves. A campaign to make the world safer may wind up making it even more dangerous, as every anxious European editorialist has warned. Yet the very size of the risk cuts both ways for Bush at home. Much as it unnerves people, it also convinces many that he must know something they don't or he would never try something this risky.

Confidence is a Bush family trademark—cocky was the word everyone used to describe George W. for years—yet he came into office without the one kind of confidence he needed most: America's faith in him. Every President is supposed to



**TEAM U.S.A.** Bush, with his wife and top advisers at the President's Texas ranch, awaits the arrival of China's President Jiang Zemin, whom Bush lobbied to support the U.S. on Iraq

have the public's trust, or at least the benefit of the doubt, on Inauguration Day. But the tortured 2000 election outcome meant that Bush would have to start by earning it, and in the end it took a national crisis to do that. America's trust in Bush was lifted when so much else was lost. "Times have changed after September the 11th," Bush said recently in Pennsylvania. "It used to be we thought oceans would protect us." But not anymore. "We don't have any choice in this new war, see. We learned that the enemy has taken the battlefield to our very own country. My most important job is to protect America."

In the wake of the attacks, while many people wrestled with how to address Islamic hatred of America, Bush was consumed only with how best to fight it. The man who said his own father had failed to spend his political capital was not going to make the same mistake. He had his own evil empire to battle now. In Bush's view, everything that worked through 50 years of tyrant containment—treaties and deals and bribes and threats—was expunged all at once by an enemy with no home address, who can't be pressured, can't be bombed, can't be sanctioned, can only kill or be killed. "That's why I've started and stimulated a discussion on Iraq," Bush says, mixing a familiar enemy like Saddam with a new and terrifying one like al-Qaeda. If there was no visible evidence to link the two, he just used that fact to argue his point: the danger is everywhere, even if we can't see it; the threat is growing, even if we can't prove it. The Administration's argument for war is based not on the strength of America's Intelligence but on its weakness. Last month Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recalled that "the missile shipments to Cuba took the U.S. completely by surprise." More than a generation later, he said, "the only time we'll have perfect evidence that a terrorist regime has deliverable weapons of mass destruction may be after they've used those weapons. And needless to say, that's a bit late."

That leap of faith is all but impossible for the President's critics to make. They flinch at his bluster, challenge his evidence and wonder where it will end. Even some Republicans who want to see Saddam gone wish that Bush would show more discipline when he makes his case. Iraq's record is bad enough, they say, without embroidering it. Yet when the CIA can't put hard evidence of an al-Qaeda-Iraq connection on the table, the Pentagon

forms its own mini intelligence agency to find it instead. If Iraq is importing aluminum tubes, the Administration says it can only be for enriching uranium for bombs; if there are al-Qaeda agents hiding out in Iraq, they must be guests of the government. And that message has been received: nearly three-quarters of Americans surveyed think that Saddam is currently helping al-Qaeda; 71% think it is likely he was personally involved in the Sept. 11 attacks, something even the hawks haven't said aloud. "They just assert a reality and stick with it," says a former Clinton Administration official with evident frustration. "They do it with tremendous discipline. They keep it simple and use the bully pulpit, and they say it again and again and again until people believe it."

Whatever Bush actually knows or believes, exaggeration itself can be a deliberate tactic. To an adversary who has consistently underestimated America's resolve, it signals that America will assume the worst and act on that assumption. While Bush sounds hell-bent on making war, his more subtle defenders will cite the lessons of master warmakers back to Sun Tzu: "To fight and conquer in all our battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting." While many Presidents may have appeared reluctant about war, even if, like Woodrow Wilson, they were more than willing to enter the fray, Bush has chosen the opposite path, flaunting all the ways he is preparing to fight because doing so may mean he won't have to. In the spirit of cold war Presidents facing nuclear nightmares, it even serves his purpose to seem a little irrational in his itch to fight. "Iraq will not cooperate," Secretary of State Colin Powell told National Public Radio last week, "unless the element of pressure in the form of potential military force is there."

FOR ALL THE FOCUS ON THE U.N., WHAT BUSH NEEDS MOST IS THE solid support of the American public. And even though Congress voted overwhelmingly to back him in Iraq, Bush hasn't really closed the deal at home and has actually lost ground in recent weeks. For the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks, his overall approval ratings dropped to around 60%, just 6 points higher than before the attacks. Americans instinctively trust the President in a foreign policy crisis, but the check isn't blank. Since they sense Bush is deadly earnest, they naturally are asking a lot of questions, looking for enough information to feel at peace with war. The conversation is taking place everywhere. It's not always an argument but certainly an exploration of means and ends. The number of

Iraq-related Internet searches on Google more than doubled from July to August, more than quintupled from August to September and doubled again from September to October. A wider war is an increasingly common topic in church; lawmakers on Capitol Hill notice that their fax machines are often flooded on Sunday afternoons. At Westminster Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, deep in the heart of Bush country, the congregation last week launched a four-part discussion on the "Impending War with Iraq." The parishioners want to know why America is going to war and what's at stake and what the response should be. "People are questioning," says JoAnn Reafsnyder, director of adult education. "We hear, we speculate on what's going on in Iraq, but we're not sure. We're not sure about the role of economics, the politics of fear, the politics of oil." The need for more information increased after Tennessee Congressman John Duncan Jr. became one of only six Republicans to vote against giving Bush the authority to use force. "I don't think anybody is for keeping Saddam Hussein," Reafsnyder says, "but they're trying to find a more peaceful way of doing it." For more than 100,000 people last month, that involved descending on Washington and elsewhere for the largest antiwar demonstrations since Vietnam.

**A**S BUSH WORKS TO WIN OVER THE PUBLIC, IT'S worth remembering that he's never really taken his eye off it. Back in August, wise old Republican hands from his father's Administration were landing salvos on the Op-Ed pages, saying Bush needed to rethink his approach. But current Administration hawks dismissed the need for alliances—"It's often the case that when America leads, the world follows," observed Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer. White House lawyers said they didn't need a congressional resolution because the President had all the legal authority he needed to invade Iraq without it. Vice President Dick Cheney said that all weapons inspections do is provide a sense of "false comfort." By then, Bush's approval ratings had begun to flutter in a downward direction.

And so over the following weeks, the Bush team adjusted the dials. His appeal to the U.N. seemed like a course correction to many, coming after months of unilateral talk. "The most amazing thing he accomplished for himself is that he has shifted so skillfully since Labor Day," says a diplomat who worked for Bush's father. "He is now standing for the very things he criticized others for in the early part of the year, yet paid no price for it. In fact, he's being praised for it."

But it is also possible—and the Bush team will certainly argue as much—that the Administration had planned for things to

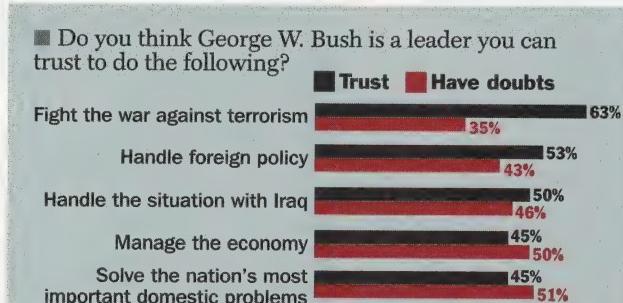
**TOUCH** Bush, at a Republican rally in Tennessee, still enjoys broad popular support

go this way all along: that they went into the U.N. in September in as belligerent a dress as possible to shock what it regards as a risk-averse international body into action. Only in the face of a U.S. threat to go it alone would the U.N. realize it was being left behind and rouse itself to take on Saddam. Administration officials concede now that Bush wanted the U.N. not only to act but to act in a different way than it had during the bomb-and-back-off years of the Clinton era. "We're talking about a changed set of circumstances," says a top White House official. "The most important element that has changed is the fact that the U.S. is prepared to use force to enforce the resolutions."

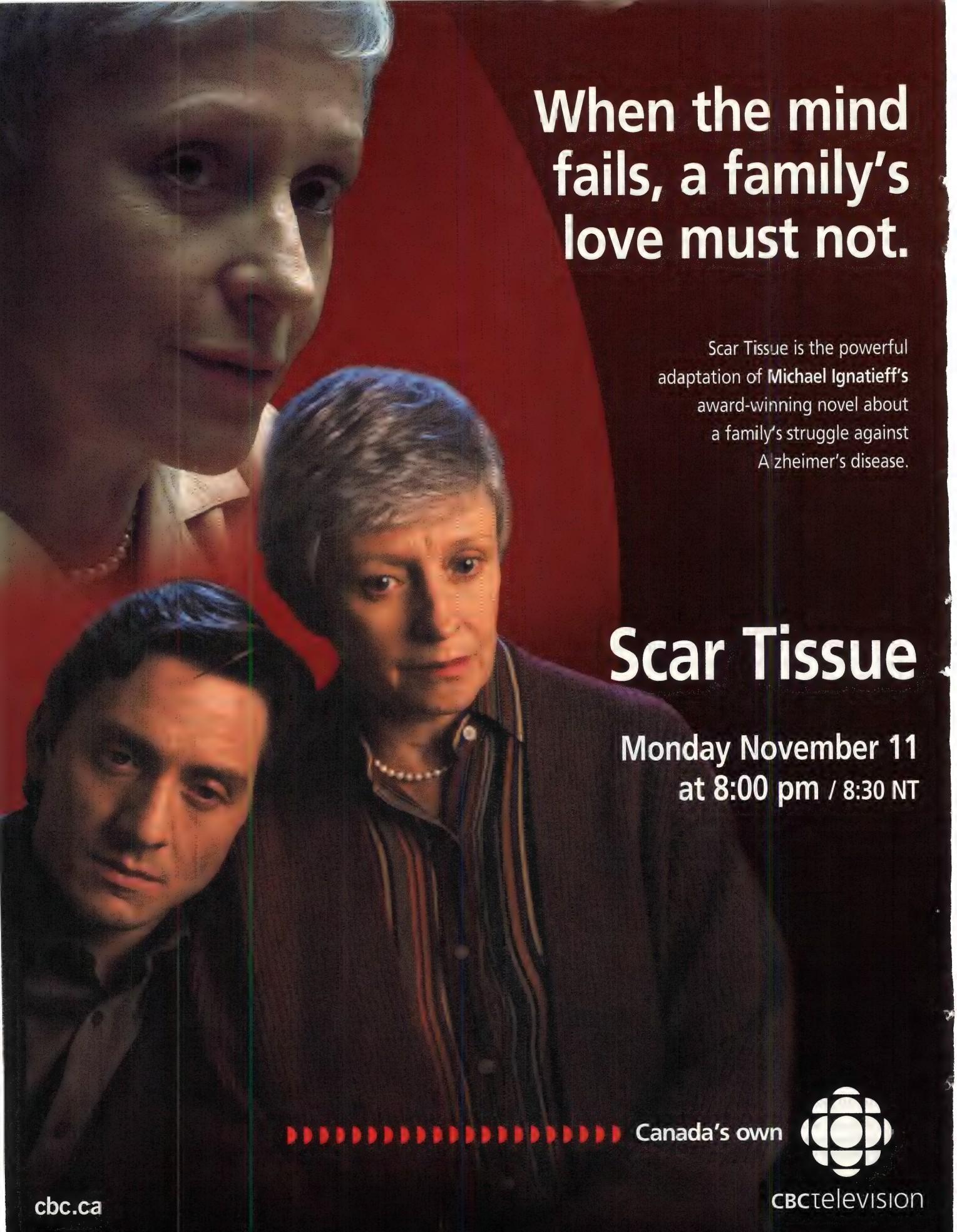
Condi Rice said last week that the only inspections regime that the U.S. would accept is one that places a much bigger burden on Iraq than past U.N. resolutions have required. "It's important that people understand what we are saying about inspections this time," she tells TIME. "The world has to have a zero-tolerance view on Iraq. This is a country the size of France. You can always hide things in a country that big. So it is not incumbent on the U.N. to find things. What we're saying is that it is incumbent on Saddam Hussein to show that he is compliant."

And so the game goes on and the pressure keeps rising. Bush officials revealed last week that the Administration is preparing a litany of war-crimes charges to level against Saddam and his henchmen—another sword dangling over his head as he decides whether to comply with U.N. inspections. And while Bush made clear that he would not wait forever for the U.N. to approve a new weapons-inspections regimen, he and his aides also said that if inspections resume and Saddam drags his feet or shuts down the search teams, the U.S. would be willing to consult with the Security Council before attacking. An official put it this way: "If he defies the United Nations, we're not going to wake up the next day and go to war. We are more than willing to come back to the U.N. and discuss it." The President, meanwhile, kept the pressure on. "This country is in for the long haul," Bush said. "We understand that some in the world may blink, but we're not blinking."

There is no book in the White House library about how to get America in the mood for war, but there are some lessons from history. Robert Teeter, who has polled for every Republican President since Gerald Ford, says Bush has rather quickly convinced a lot of people that it might be wise to shift from a defensive foreign policy doctrine to a more aggressive, pre-emptive stance. And if the American people aren't sold yet on possible war with Iraq, Teeter notes that the public is seldom eager for military action. "There is always anxiety about sending people over to a shooting war," he said recently. —With reporting by Amanda Bower/New York and Massimo Calabresi and John F. Dickerson/Washington



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# HARVEY'S PITFALLS

The SEC chief is digging himself in deeper, with an ill-fated appointment that could cost him his job

By BILL Saporito

**S**ECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION chairman Harvey Pitt is running out of admirers in Washington, with the possible exception of folks at the Mine Safety and Health Administration. He's the only one in the Capitol who gets into deeper holes than they do. And more often. Last week Pitt stuck his spade in again, botching the selection of William Webster as head of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the outfit created by Congress to

keep the pencils sharp in the accounting industry. In vetting Webster, Pitt failed to tell fellow commissioners—and, by the way, the White House—that the former FBI and CIA boss had recently served as a director (and head of the audit committee) of U.S. Technologies, a failing company being sued by shareholders who say they were defrauded of millions of dollars.

Pitt now seems to be a political cave-in. The Webster appointment is suddenly the subject of three separate investigations—one of them initiated by Pitt. He has become one of President Bush's biggest liabilities. His performance is harming the Administration's efforts to restore confidence in the stock market and the economy, and the famously loyal President is under pressure from his staff to write Pitt off and start afresh. White House chief of staff Andrew Card was particularly incensed at being left

out of the loop: He had personally recruited Webster for the oversight-board job. Although a White House spokesman publicly praised Pitt, advisers close to the President hinted that he is a marked man. "We're hanging with him—for now," said one.

Pitt may not be the only casualty. With the economy stalled and the Administration under pressure to fix it, White House officials talk openly about the likelihood that the President will jettison either his foot-in-mouth Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neill, or his equally gaffe-prone chief economic adviser, Larry Lindsey. Bush aides know that bringing in new blood won't improve the economy anytime soon, but the Administration can't afford to be passive.

By Halloween, when the New York *Times* broke the Webster story, Democrats were baying for blood. Maryland's Paul Sarbanes, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, called for Pitt's resignation. Things got worse for Pitt when Richard Shelby of Alabama, who will be the top Republican on the committee overseeing high finance, joined the clamor for hearings. "It's deeply troubling that with all the emphasis

ILLUSTRATION FOR TIME BY ISMAEL ROLDAN



on transparency and the need to restore faith in the markets, Pitt would fail to disclose something I thought was material to the selection process," he told TIME. "Maybe it wasn't the best judgment."

When President Bush appointed Pitt, 57, chairman 15 months ago, he wanted a low-key friend of the financial industry to replace Arthur Levitt, who had been a ferocious advocate for small shareholders. But Pitt's philosophy of regulating through persuasion and consensus—he promised a "kinder and gentler" SEC—never had a chance in the crisis environment that devel-

oped within months. First came the collapse of Enron, then the failure of Arthur Andersen and finally the flap over stock-analyst conflicts of interest.

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The SEC went into overdrive, but Pitt seemed to stall. He had to recuse himself in his first year from cases that involved former clients when he was a private lawyer. Last April, he met with Eugene O'Kelly, head of accounting firm KPMG, a former client, then under the SEC's microscope. Pitt and O'Kelly initially offered conflicting accounts of what was discussed. O'Kelly first claimed he had discussed KPMG's troubles directly with Pitt, but later changed his story. Then Pitt ticked off the White House by quietly lobbying Congress to elevate his job to Cabinet level and give him a nice raise.

Webster's selection as chief of the SEC's new accounting corps was controversial from the start. A bitterly divided commission approved Webster, 78, two weeks ago by a 3-to-2 vote after Pitt had cooled on an earlier choice, John Biggs, head of TIAA-Cref, a

successful New York pension fund. Biggs' "sin" seems to have been his reformist zeal. At TIAA-Cref he championed changes in accounting practices and corporate governance. Washington doesn't always warm up to reformers who actually reform, and Biggs' candidacy ran into opposition from the accounting industry and its chief congressional ally, Republican Representative Michael Oxley, chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Oxley lobbied Pitt to dump Biggs, arguing that he was too aggressive and unpopular with the industry, congressional sources

tainted U.S. Technologies board, which had fired its outside auditor on his watch. U.S. Technologies is close to insolvent, its management under suspicion and its shareholders in court. Pitt handed this information to his accounting staff, led by Robert Herdman, to check. Herdman cleared Webster, but Pitt never told the other commissioners about it.

The chief knock against Webster is that rectitude shouldn't be confused with aptitude. Webster sits on the boards of a number of big companies, including Anheuser-Busch. But U.S. Technologies was a New Economy animal that managed a portfolio of startups. Last year its auditors, BDO Seidman, said the company lacked proper financial controls. U.S. Technologies then fired Seidman, with Webster's approval. U.S. Technologies later told the SEC it would not challenge Seidman's conclusions. "[Webster] was chair of the audit committee at a company that had no internal controls," says Sarah Teslik, executive director of the Council of Institutional Investors. Says James Cox, a professor of law at Duke University: "He's not the guy we can expect to be an agent of change."

SHAWN THOMAS/AFP

## PITT'S PROBLEMS

The SEC chairman has been criticized for several slips since taking office last year

### "KINDER AND GENTLER" SEC

Oct. 22, 2001: Tells an industry group of his plans for "a new era of respect and cooperation" between the SEC and accountants

### SECRET KPMG MEETING

April 26, 2002: Meets privately with the CEO of a former client, KPMG, under investigation by the SEC

### HIRING WILLIAM WEBSTER

Oct. 31, 2002: Admits he did not tell fellow commissioners that his pick to head a new accounting-reform panel had run the auditing committee of a firm facing fraud allegations



tell TIME. Oxley's spokeswoman said only that he talked with Pitt frequently and wanted a "moderate person to lead the board, someone able to unite the industry and reformers." SEC commissioner Paul Atkins, a Republican, backed Webster. "I kept beating the drums on Bill Webster from Day One," he says. "Finally, the chairman came around to that way of thinking." Atkins says he favored Webster because as the nation's former top cop he could command respect from business interests.

Pitt came around late, and not before setting off a partisan dispute, rare within the SEC. Democratic commissioners Harvey Goldschmid and Roei Caripos voted against Webster, while Pitt, Atkins and Cynthia Glassman carried the day. "I deeply regret that the commission has not acted unanimously, or wisely, today," Goldschmid said after the decision.

Or, it turned out, with complete information. In discussions with Pitt, Webster made it clear that he was a member of the

Webster won't have a job. SEC sources tell TIME that some commissioners are furious with Pitt, but will wait for the results of the internal investigation before deciding Webster's fate. Webster is also the subject of a separate SEC investigation into his role at U.S. Technologies. Atkins has said he still supports Webster, as has Congressman Oxley.

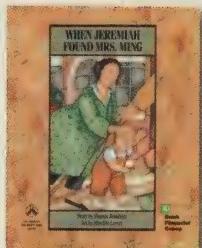
Pitt may be out of friends, but he has vowed to carry on. Sadly, the controversy has overshadowed the SEC's enforcement efforts under his leadership, which now number 598 actions, in contrast to 483 in fiscal year 2001. When he was the SEC's youngest general counsel 25 years ago, Pitt was famous for his late-night work habits. Even today no one can accuse Harvey Pitt of being anything less than a hardworking and committed public servant. But after the maelstrom he created last week, no one much cares.

—Reported by James Carney, Matthew Cooper, Eric Roston and Michael Weisskopf/Washington



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# Russian to the C

The hostage debacle over, Vladimir Putin talks tough but still defers too much to the security forces. Is he blinded by his pride?

By ROMESH RATNESAR and PAUL QUINN-JUDGE

**A**S THEY WATCHED THE HORROR AT a Moscow theater unfold live on television last month, some Russians must have wondered what exactly their President, Vladimir Putin, was doing. During the three days that Chechen rebels held more than 800 people hostage in the Theater Center on Dubrovka, the Kremlin released only a few, silent images of Putin, in his office talking with aides—prompting one exasperated news presenter to bring on a lip-reader to try to work out what Putin was saying. The President's website reported that he was "immediately" informed of the hostage situation at 11:10 p.m. on Oct. 23, though the terrorists had seized the theater

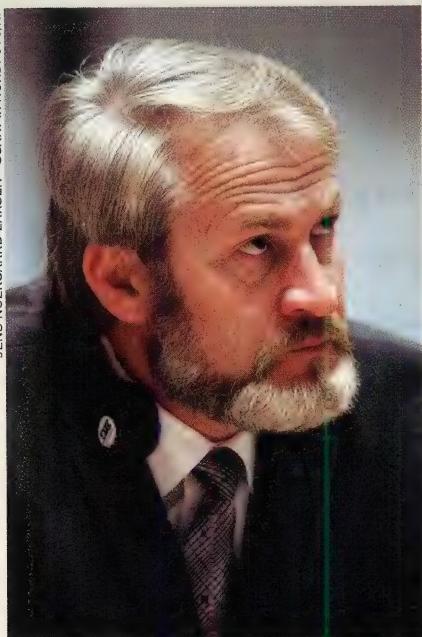
two hours earlier. In Putin's address to the nation after Russia's Spetsnaz commando forces mounted the rescue operation, the Russian leader issued one terse statement of regret: "We could not save everyone. Forgive us." Yet even as he sought to remain coolly remote to the public, in private Putin exulted. Aides say that after the standoff ended the President invited the commandos to the Kremlin for a closed-door celebration.

But for Putin, as much as for those who coordinated the operation using a sedative gas that killed 117 hostages, the taste of triumph is quickly dissipating. Putin's approval ratings soared to 85% in the immediate aftermath of the standoff, as grieving Russians cheered the President's vow to hunt down terrorists "wherever they may be located." But Putin's government was

also forced last week to confront questions about the Kremlin's Soviet-style stonewalling on the nature of the gas and the failure of the Russian authorities to prepare doctors for treating the poisoned. After four days of silence, Russian Health Minister Yuri Shevchenko acknowledged that the gas was based on derivatives of fentanyl, a common medical anesthetic, but he insisted it was not known to be fatal.

Putin's role in the decision to use the gas is still a mystery. When asked by TIME where Putin worked during the hostage crisis, a top aide said merely that "the President was constantly in Moscow." Government officials say Vladimir Pronichev, deputy chief of Russia's intelligence agency and head of the emergency staff charged with handling the crisis, gave the orders to the Spetsnaz to pump gas through the theater vents and seize the hall. During the standoff, Putin, according to members of the emergency staff, stayed in touch with Pronichev through a senior aide on Chechen affairs, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, and was given the broad outline of the res-

JENS NOERGAARD LARSEN—SCANPIX/NORDFOTO/AP



REQUIEM: While Muscovites mourned two teenage victims, Putin had the Danes arrest Chechen moderate Zakayev, above



MSKHA/AP/WIDEWORLD—AP, PUTIN: SERGEI GUNEV/EV FOR TIME

ore





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cue plans. But government sources say it is unlikely the security chiefs received Putin's approval to use gas on the theater. They didn't need it. "If the commanders had said, 'We are going to use 'special means,'" says an official close to Putin, referring to the use of gas, "he would have said O.K. He thinks like these people. He trusts them completely."

But outside the Kremlin, the second-guessing came fast. U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow told reporters on Oct. 29 that "perhaps with a little more information, at least a few more of the hostages may have survived." A Moscow doctor says the government has refused to admit that dozens of hospitalized victims remain unconscious and that most are unlikely to recover without significant brain damage.

A case can be made that Putin had little choice but to use overwhelming force against terrorists who had wired the theater with explosives and threatened to bring the house down. But the ruthless rescue mission and the government's haphazard handling of the crisis were in many respects the product of Putin's personality and leadership style and reveal some of the chronic weaknesses of his presidency. While known as a control freak, Putin still lacks confidence in his authority over the Russian bureaucracy; he delegates operational decision making to top aides, especially on security issues. Though by nature a pragmatic politician with little ideological drive, Putin is obsessed with defending the power and prestige of the Russian state—a fixation that is now likely to drag Russia deeper into a costly war against Chechen separatists. "Putin has emerged as a victor, but he is also trapped," says Andrei Ryabov, an analyst with the Moscow Carnegie Center. "He needs to go on having victories [but] a debacle instead of a victory next time may totally wipe him out as a leader."

Putin's reluctance to take on the security apparatus has delayed reforms in that sector and encouraged its bureaucracy to cover up mistakes, like the disastrous effort to rescue the *Kursk* submarine in 2000. Though many fewer people died at the Moscow theater than in the U.S. on Sept. 11, a Bush Administration official contends that for sheer incompetence "this was a worse intelligence failure than the one we experienced on 9/11. The plot leaders in Moscow were already known. The Russians claim these people came all the way from Chechnya. How could the security services not have been watching

# The Gas They Used: Was It Legal?

**A**fter days of playing coy, Russia acknowledged what the world suspected anyway—that the gas used in the Moscow theater standoff was fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic developed more than 50 years ago. Doubts persisted, however, with scientists suggesting that there were undisclosed ingredients in the killing mist. The skepticism grew when Russian Health Minister Yuri Shevchenko huffily—if vaguely—declared that a "compound based on fentanyl derivatives was used."

Despite Moscow's snit at the global second-guessing, the world—or at least the 147 nations that ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention—has a right to ask. Enacted in 1997, the accord outlaws lethal battlefield chemicals like nerve gases while permitting such comparatively benign substances as tear gas for domestic law enforcement. A third category—longer-acting incapacitating agents like fentanyl—are banned on the

battlefield but may be O.K. to use domestically, provided that they're administered with precision, knocking out targets without killing them. But "precision" is a hard thing to achieve in a crisis, as the Moscow deaths illustrate.

This has led some to demand that incapacitating agents be specifically regulated in the treaty. For now, the three classes of substances remain unchanged. Examples of each:

## Fentanyl gas

was released through the ventilation system and also through holes drilled by commandos

Hallway

Main entrance

Booby traps

Plastic explosives

30-kg to 45-kg TNT explosives

Ground floor, where many of the hostages were held



## Lethal and Illegal

### MUSTARD GAS

Used most notoriously during World War I, mustard gas is a blistering agent that damages skin, eyes, lungs and other tissue on contact. Lethal in high doses, it is now banned, though supplies remain in many arsenals.

### VX

A nasty gas with an unassuming name, VX is absorbed by the skin and kills by disrupting nerve transmissions. Symptoms begin with eye pain and labored breathing and progress to twitching and convulsions. Death occurs within 15 minutes.

### SARIN

The nerve agent used in the 1995 subway gassing in Japan, sarin is an inhaled toxin that causes muscles to clench and leads to convulsions. Antidotes may work if administered promptly.

## Legal, Nonlethal

### TEAR GAS, PEPPER SPRAY

These powerful irritants affect mostly the eyes and skin. They can lead to disabling nausea and headaches. Once exposure ends, victims normally recover.

### MACE

Basically a high-octane tear gas. In addition to affecting throat, skin and eyes, it irritates bronchial tubes and lungs. Overexposure can lead to vomiting, abdominal pain and cramps.

### ADAMSITE

First produced during World War I, adamsite is dispersed not as a gas but as an aerosol. Causes severe vomiting, coughing, sneezing and acute pain and tightness in the chest. Like all other agents permitted by the chemical-weapons treaty, it does not cause permanent harm.

## The Gray Area

### KNOCKOUT AGENTS

The class of opiates that includes fentanyl works by inhibiting the central nervous system. Loss of consciousness can be preceded by nausea and disorientation. Fatal overdosing remains a risk.

### CALMATIVE AGENTS

Derivatives of common drugs, including Valium and Prozac, are under study as possible calming agents. Researchers at Penn State are looking into blending calmative agents and pepper spray for riot control.

### AGENT BZ

Also known as Buzz, it works by disrupting brain-cell signaling, leading to disorientation and hallucinations. Buzz was weaponized by the U.S. during the cold war, but stockpiles were destroyed because the drug is so unpredictable.

# Chechnya: The War Without End

The conflict over Chechnya dates back 185 years. Between the two recent wars—which have taken the lives of 38,000 combatants, by Moscow's count, plus an estimated 200,000 civilians—the two sides reached a short peace. That is a distant prospect now.

## Q. What are the roots of the conflict?

A. In 1817 Russia's Czarist army began efforts to conquer Chechnya, finally succeeding in 1859. During World War II, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin accused Chechens of collaborating with the Nazis and deported the entire population to Central Asia. Chechens began returning in the late 1950s to find that Russians had seized control of most of the province. With the collapse of the

Soviet Union, Chechnya declared independence in 1991, prompting two campaigns by Moscow to crush the separatist movement, one from 1994 to 1996, the other starting in 1999.

## Q. How are Chechens different from Russians?

A. Chechens have a distinct language, culture and ethnic identity. Nearly all are Sunni Muslims.

## Q. What is Islam's role in the conflict?



ANTHONY SUAU/FOR TIME

DEVASTATION: Downtown Grozny in 1995, after Russian bombing

A. Chechnya's 1992 constitution defined a secular state, but Chechen nationalism has taken on an Islamic flavor. In 1999, Aslan Maskhadov, who was elected President of Chechnya two years

earlier, declared that Shari'a, or Islamic law, would be phased in over three years. Those plans were waylaid by the Russian invasion later that year and the Kremlin's installation of a

puppet regime in Grozny.

## Q. Are Chechen fighters tied to al-Qaeda?

A. Arab volunteers from Europe and the Middle East joined the war against Russia after 1999, funded in part by al-Qaeda. Money was channeled through Khattab, a Saudi-born commander in Chechnya killed earlier this year who,

according to U.S. intelligence, was an agent of Osama bin Laden. Lately officials in Georgia have disrupted al-Qaeda cells there that recruited volunteers for Chechnya. Arab volunteers, however, remain a small minority among Chechen guerrillas.

## Q. Does diplomacy stand a chance?

A. Though Chechens seek a separate state, they would probably accept autonomy within the Russian Federation. A 1996 peace accord left them de facto independent, but the 1999 invasion ended that. Though Moscow has had brief contacts with the guerrillas since then, it now rules out a political solution with the current generation of rebels.

them?" He adds, "Heads should roll."

Don't count on it. Those who know Putin say the former KGB man shrinks from taking on the country's entrenched political interests. Putin last year long hesitated to fire a well-connected Cabinet minister accused of corruption. "What if he says no?" a close aide to the President said, explaining his hesitation. Rather than fix things, Putin has preferred to intimidate media outlets in an effort to quash negative coverage of the government. The Kremlin threatened last week to shut down NTV, a television network that occasionally shows flashes of independence despite being owned by the state-controlled natural-gas monopoly. The Kremlin's anger was sparked by two NTV journalists whose coverage had deviated from the official line. In the Russian heartland, most viewers already receive nothing but pro-government broadcasts. Says analyst Ryabov: "In the provinces they only have the victorious images on their TV screens to watch, and they rally to embrace the idea of a strong country emerging from the ashes once again."

Putin is already using that resurgent nationalism to build support for a new offensive in Chechnya. He rose to power in



1999 on the strength of a pledge to "rub out" the Chechen terrorists. "He has strong feelings about Chechnya," says a senior State Department official. "We just say the word, and he hits the roof." The Bush Administration says it supports a political solution to the conflict, but Washington hasn't pushed Putin to compromise—in part because he equates the Russian struggle against Chechen rebels with the Administration's war against al-Qaeda.

But Putin's war is going nowhere. Russian soldiers in Chechnya have killed more than 13,000 Chechen rebels since 1999, but the brutality of the army's tactics has spawned new, more fanatical fighters faster than it has eliminated the old ones. Before the hostage siege, 57% of the public supported talks with the rebels; last week that number had slipped, but not by much, to 44%. Even without a broad mandate, Putin is likely to exploit the terrorist threat to renew the military campaign and crush

the Chechen leaders he loathes. In Copenhagen last week, Danish authorities acting at Russia's behest arrested Ahmed Zakayev, the relatively moderate representative of Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov. Zakayev has signaled a willingness to rein in Chechen extremists in exchange for a peace deal. But by associating even moderates like Zakayev with terrorists, Putin hopes to muzzle talk of any Russian accommodation with the rebels.

Stunned more by the audacity of the terrorists than by the government's bumbling, many Russians found themselves responding last week to Putin's hard-line rhetoric in much the same way that Americans rallied behind Bush's. And yet the terrorists' success in staging their assault in the center of Moscow also showed how ill equipped Putin's government is to deal with the Chechen rebellion.

For now, says Andrei Piontovsky, director of the Strategic Studies Center, based in Moscow, Putin "has acquired the image of a strong and resolute leader—but only for a limited period of time." Russians are still waiting for Putin to prove he can deliver more than tough talk. —With reporting by Yuri Zarakhovich, Moscow and Massimo Calabresi, Washington

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Eric Reguly

# Quit Banking on Mergers!

Rather than bulking up at home, the Big Five need to break out abroad

**S**IR JOHN BOND IS CHAIRMAN OF HSBC HOLDINGS, ONE OF the world's largest and most profitable banks, and China is much on his mind. Well it might be, since China is both the home turf of the HSBC, which was born in 1865 as the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and HSBC's greatest growth opportunity. "Imagine Singapore times 1,000," he said a couple of weeks ago in Toronto, during one of his regular forays from London. (HSBC Canada is one of more than 80 national banks in his company's portfolio.)

China is apparently not much on the mind of any of the Big Five Canadian banks, however. Instead, they seem obsessed as usual with using domestic mergers to bulk up in their own sand box. This was a bad idea when it last emerged in 1998. It still is.

The latest attempt came last month when Bank of Montreal (BMO) and Bank of Nova Scotia, the two smallest of the Big Five, presented a marriage proposal to Ottawa. It was rejected by the Prime Minister's office, whose crib notes on Soviet-style central economic planning are never far from hand. That marked Strike 2 for BMO. Four years ago, its announced merger attempt with Royal Bank was unceremoniously rejected by then Finance Minister and now Liberal-leader-wannabe Paul Martin. So was a parallel attempt by Toronto-Dominion Bank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Bank bashing has never lost the Liberals any votes, a consideration that no doubt factored into Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's decision to kill off the latest merger attempt.

Never in the history of Canadian industry has so much effort been spent to produce so few results. Make that negative results. The first merger go-round paralyzed the banks. Their chief executives, transformed into traveling pitchmen for the idea, all but ignored the task of running and building a business for almost a full year. Share prices collapsed when Martin put an end to the banks' ambitions.

But while the mergers died, the dream didn't. In back corridors of lofty bank towers, lobbyists, strategists and number crunchers continued to work on marriage proposals. We know this because BMO boss Tony Comper, and Peter Godsoe, his Scotiabank counterpart, were said to be within two weeks of revealing their deal before the Prime Minister's office issued a

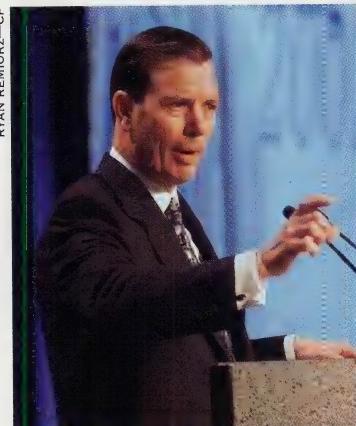
cease-and-desist order. The result is more wasted time and effort. Have the banks finally had enough? Don't count on it. There is already talk that another merger proposal will surface before the next federal election, expected in about two years.

What the Canadian banks need to learn is that blockbuster mergers are rarely productive and often destructive, and usually aren't required to achieve expansion goals. JP Morgan Chase, the union of JP Morgan, the investment-banking firm, and Chase Manhattan, the bank, is a stock-market dud on the verge of disaster. Citigroup, another product of blockbuster mergers, has just announced plans to hive off its research arm, the first step in what may be a broader unbundling process.

In the meantime, the financial-services companies that avoided the merger craze and remained focused on their core concerns are faring well. One is Canada's Manulife Financial, which, like HSBC, is making a determined push into China and other parts of Asia. Manulife believes China could soon rival the U.S. as the world's greatest consumer society, a feat not easily accomplished

without a few Western-style financial services, especially of the friendly and thoroughly efficient Canadian variety. Of the Big Five, Royal Bank has proved that you don't necessarily need a domestic merger—though it would love one—to play the international game. More than a third of its \$10 billion in gross revenues already comes from U.S. operations, mostly acquired after the 1998 merger failure. While Royal's U.S. acquisition strategy can be described as plodding, a sizable American financial-services network is taking shape, and it isn't threatened by a creaking monster-merger at home.

Royal or the other Canadian banks have little chance of becoming the next HSBC. They're simply too far down on the international-league tables (ranked by assets, Royal is 53rd). But that's not to say they can't rejoin the top 25 that Royal (at 23rd) belonged to 25 years ago. The banks should think harder outside the Canadian box. Domestic mergers would make them bigger in a small, stagnant market. The alternative could make them more significant in absolute terms. Go south, go west, go to China—just go. There's a whole world out there to conquer. ■



Comper's and Godsoe's efforts at union were a waste of time and energy



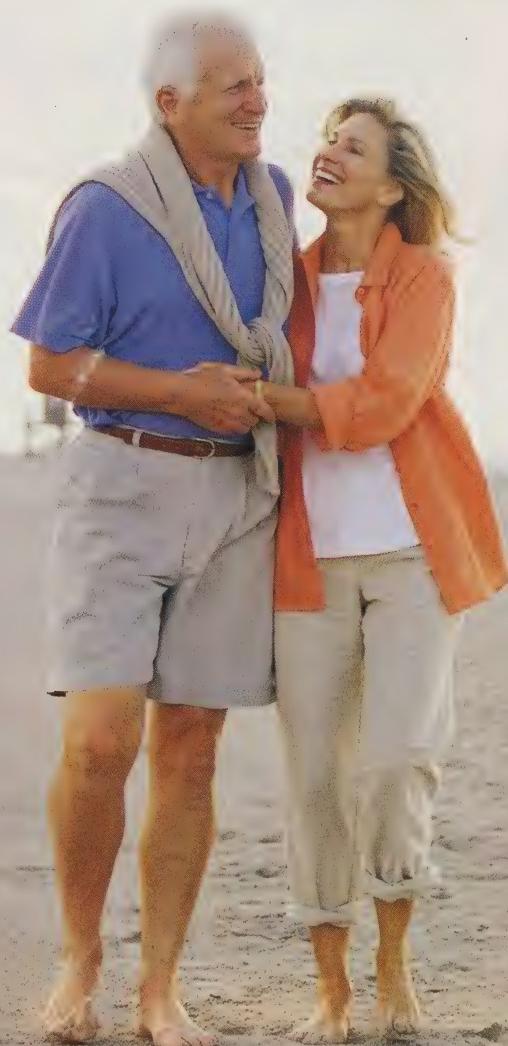
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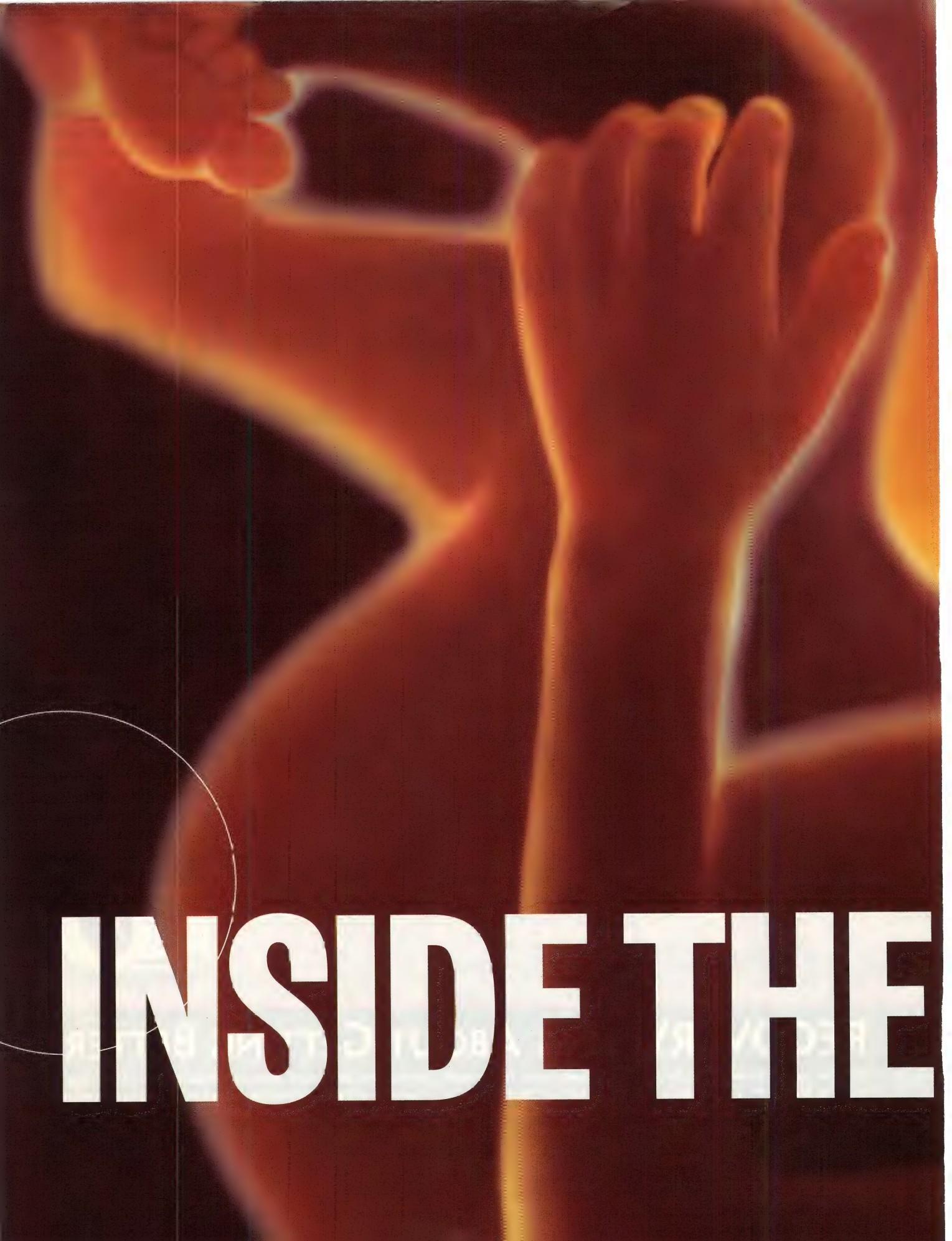
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# INSIDE THE



At eight months, the rapidly growing baby gets ready for its grand entrance into the world, putting on weight, packing away nutrients and stocking up on disease-preventing immune cells piped from Mom through the umbilical cord

# WOMB

What scientists have learned about those amazing first nine months—and what it means for mothers

By J. Madeleine Nash



# Conception

During intercourse, 300 million sperm may enter the vagina, but only one will penetrate and fertilize the egg to create an embryo

## SCIENCE

**A**S THE CRYSTAL PROBE SLIDES ACROSS HER BELLY, HILDA MANZO, 33, STARES WIDE-EYED AT THE video monitor mounted on the wall. She can make out a head with a mouth and two eyes. She can see pairs of arms and legs that end in tiny hands and feet. She can see the curve of a backbone, the bridge of a nose. And best of all, she can see movement. The mouth of her child-to-be yawns. Its feet kick. Its hands wave.

Dr. Jacques Abramowicz, director of the University of Chicago's ultrasound unit, turns up the audio so Manzo can hear the gush of blood through the umbilical cord and the fast

thump, thump, thump of a miniature heart. "Oh, my!" she exclaims as he adjusts the sonic scanner to peer under her fetus' skin. "The heart is on the left side, as it should be," he says, "and it has four chambers. Look—one, two, three, four!"

Such images of life stirring in the womb—in this case, of a 17-week-old fetus no bigger than a newborn kitten—are at the forefront of a biomedical revolution that is rapidly transforming the way we think about the prenatal world. For although it takes nine months to make a baby, we now know that the most important developmental steps—including laying the foundation for such major organs as the heart,

lungs and brain—occur before the end of the first three. We also know that long before a child is born its genes engage the environment of the womb in an elaborate conversation, a two-way dialogue that involves not only the air its mother breathes and the water she drinks but also what drugs she takes, what diseases she contracts and what hardships she suffers.

One reason we know this is a series of remarkable advances in MRIs, sonograms and other imaging technologies that allow us to peer into the developmental process at virtually every stage—from the fusion of sperm and egg to the emergence, some 40 weeks later, of a miniature human being. The extraordinary pictures on these pages come from a new book that captures some

of the color and excitement of this research: *From Conception to Birth: A Life Unfolds*, by photographer Alexander Tsiaras and writer Barry Werth. Their computer-enhanced images are reminiscent of the remarkable fetal portraits taken by medical photographer Lennart Nilsson, which appeared in LIFE magazine in 1965. Like Nilsson's work, these images will probably spark controversy. Antiabortion activists may interpret them as evidence that a fetus is a viable human being earlier than generally believed, while pro-choice advocates may argue that the new technology allows doctors to detect serious fetal defects at a stage when abortion is a reasonable option.

The other reason we know so much

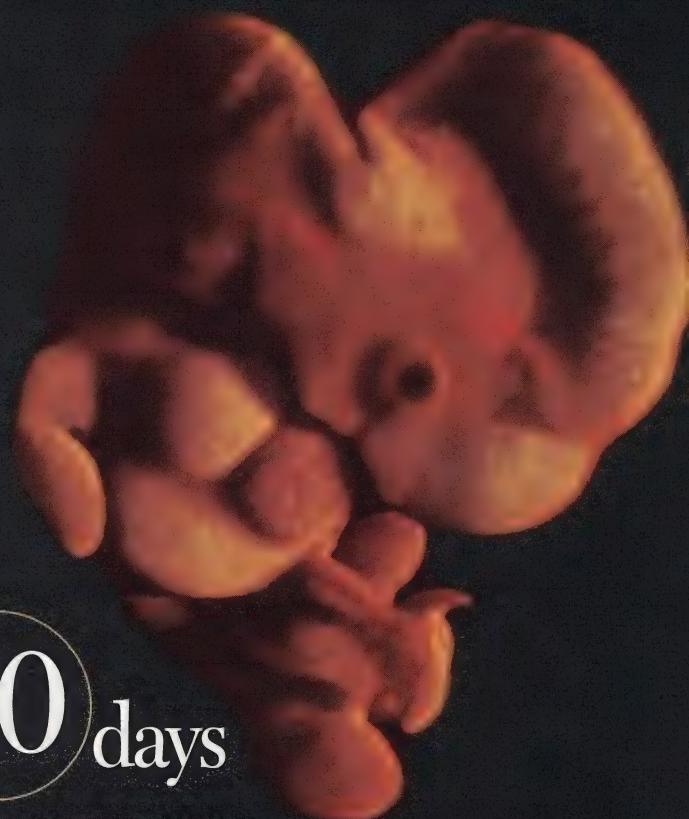
# 32 days

No bigger than a ladybug, the embryo forms a primitive heart, eyes and blood vessels. The brain is a labyrinth of cell-lined cavities, while the emerging arms and legs still resemble flipper-like paddles



# 40 days

At this point, a human embryo looks no different from that of a pig, chick or elephant. All have a tail, a yolk sac and rudimentary gills

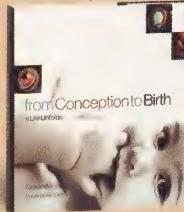


about what goes on inside the womb is the remarkable progress researchers have made in teasing apart the sequence of chemical signals and switches that drive fetal development. Scientists can now describe at the level of individual genes and molecules many of the steps involved in building a human, from the establishment of a head-to-tail growth axis and the budding of limbs to the sculpting of a four-chambered heart and the weaving together of trillions of neural connections. Scientists are beginning to unroll the genetic blueprint of life and identify the precise molecular tools required for assembly. Human development no longer seems impossibly complex, says Stanford University biologist Matthew Scott. "It just seems marvelous."

How is it, we are invited to wonder, that a fertilized egg—a mere speck of protoplasm and DNA encased in a spherical shell—can generate such complexity? The answers, while elusive and incomplete, are beginning to come into focus.

Only 20 years ago, most developmental biologists thought that different organisms grew according to different sets of rules, so that understanding how a fly or a worm de-

## How They Did It



With just a few keystrokes, Alexander Tsiaras does the impossible. He takes the image of a 56-day-old human embryo and peers through its skin, revealing liver, lungs, a bulblike brain and the tiny, exquisite vertebrae of a developing spine.

These are no ordinary baby pictures. What Tsiaras and his colleagues are manipulating are layers of data gathered by CT scans, micro magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and other visualization techniques. When Lennart Nilsson took his groundbreaking photographs in the 1960s, he was limited to what he could innovatively capture with a flash camera. Since then, says Tsiaras, "there's been a revolution in imaging."

What's changed is that development can now be viewed through a wide variety of prisms, using different forms of energy to illuminate different aspects of the fetus. CT scans, for example, are especially good at showing bone, and MRI is excellent for soft tissue. These two-dimensional layers of information are assembled, using sophisticated computer



**FETAL ATTRACTION:** The computer lab where Tsiaras performs his digital magic software, into a three-dimensional whole.

The results are painstakingly accurate and aesthetically stunning. Tsiaras, who trained as a painter and sculptor, used medical specimens from the Carnegie Human Embryology Collection at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington as models for all but a few images. The specimens came from a variety of sources, according to museum director Adrienne Noe, including miscarriages and medically necessary procedures. None were acquired from elective abortions.

—By David Bierkie

# 42 days

The embryo is now developing a sense of smell. Clearly visible are cartoon-like hands, with crudely segmented fingers

DEVELOPING NERVE ENDINGS

HEART

LIVER

HAND

HINDBRAIN

BRAIN BLOOD FLOW

MIDBRAIN

PIGMENTED EYE

FOREBRAIN

UMBILICAL CORD

FOOT PLATE

## Actual size

The embryo grows rapidly throughout the first trimester. By Week 12, most of the body systems are already present, albeit in miniature form



28 days



32 days



36 days



40 days



42 days



44 days



51 days



52 days



56 days

velops—or even a vertebrate like a chicken or a fish—would do little to illuminate the process in humans. Then, in the 1980s, researchers found remarkable similarities in the molecular tool kit used by organisms that span the breadth of the animal kingdom, and those similarities have proved serendipitous beyond imagining. No matter what the species, nature uses virtually the same nails and screws, the same hammers and power tools to put an embryo together.

Among the by-products of the torrent of information pouring out of the laboratory are new prospects for treating a broad range of late-in-life diseases. Just last month, for example, three biologists won the Nobel Prize for Medicine for their work on the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, which has a few more than 1,000 cells, compared with a human's 50 trillion. The three winners helped establish that a fundamental mechanism that *C. elegans* embryos employ to get rid of redundant or abnormal cells also exists in humans and may play a role in AIDS, heart disease and cancer. Even more exciting, if considerably more controversial, is the understanding that embryonic cells harbor untapped therapeutic potential. These cells, of course, are stem cells, and they are the progenitors of more specialized cells that make up organs and tissues. By harnessing their generative powers, medical researchers believe, it may one day be possible to repair the damage wrought by injury and disease. (That prospect suffered a political setback last week when a U.S. federal advisory committee recommended that embryos be considered the same as human subjects in clinical trials.)

To be sure, the marvel of an embryo transcends the collection of genes and cells that compose it. For unlike strands of DNA floating in a test tube or stem cells dividing in a Petri dish, an embryo is capable of building not just a protein or a patch of tissue but a living entity in which every cell functions as an integrated part of the whole. "Imagine yourself as the world's tallest skyscraper, built in nine months and germinating from a single brick," suggest Tsiaras and Werth in the opening of their book. "As that brick divides, it gives rise to every other type of material needed to construct and operate the finished tower—a million tons of steel, concrete, mortar, insulation, tile, wood, granite, solvents, carpet, cable, pipe

and glass as well as all furniture, phone systems, heating and cooling units, plumbing, electrical wiring, artwork and computer networks, including software."

Given the number of steps in the process, it will perhaps forever seem miraculous that life ever comes into being without a major hitch. "Whenever you look from one embryo to another," observes Columbia University developmental neurobiologist Thomas Jessell, "what strikes you is the fidelity of the process."

Sometimes, though, that fidelity is compromised, and the reasons why this happens are coming under intense scrutiny. In labo-



# 52 days

Still no bigger than a grape, the fetus now has nostrils and pigmented eyes. The eyes won't be able to sense light for another four months, when more optic nerves will be laid down

ratory organisms, birth defects occur for purely genetic reasons when scientists purposely mutate or knock out specific sequences of DNA to establish their function. But when development goes off track in real life, the cause can often be traced to a lengthening list of external factors that disrupt some aspect of the genetic program. For an embryo does not develop in a vacuum but depends on the environment that surrounds it. When a human embryo is deprived of essential nutrients or exposed to a toxin, such as alcohol, tobacco or crack cocaine, the consequences can range from readily apparent abnormalities—spina bifida, fetal alcohol syndrome—to subtler metabolic defects that may not become apparent until much later.

**R**ONICALLY, EVEN AS SOCIETY AT LARGE continues to worry almost obsessively about the genetic origins of disease, the biologists and medical researchers who study development are mounting an impressive case for the role played by the prenatal environment. A growing body of evidence suggests that a number of serious maladies—among them, atherosclerosis, hypertension and diabetes—trace their origins to detrimental prenatal conditions. As New

York University Medical School's Dr. Peter Nathanielsz puts it, "What goes on in the womb before you are born is just as important to who you are as your genes."

Most adults, not to mention most teenagers, are by now thoroughly familiar with the mechanics of how the sperm in a man's semen and the egg in a woman's oviduct connect, and it is at this point that the story of development begins. For the sperm and the egg each contain only 23 chromosomes, half the amount of DNA needed to make a human. Only when the sperm and the egg fuse their chromosomes does the tiny zygote, as a fertilized egg is

called, receive its instructions to grow. And grow it does, replicating its DNA each time it divides—into two cells, then four, then eight and so on.

If cell division continued in this fashion, then nine months later the hapless mother would give birth to a tumorous ball of literally astronomical proportions. But instead of endlessly dividing, the zygote's cells progressively take form. The first striking change is apparent four days after conception, when a 32-cell clump called the morula (which means "mulberry" in Latin) gives rise to two distinct layers wrapped around a fluid-filled core. Now known as a blastocyst, this spherical mass will proceed to burrow into the wall of the uterus. A short time later, the outer layer of cells will begin turning into the placenta and amniotic sac, while the inner layer will become the embryo.

The formation of the blastocyst signals the start of a sequence of changes that are as precisely choreographed as a ballet. At the end of Week One, the inner cell layer of the blastocyst balloons into two more layers. From the first layer, known as the endoderm, will come the cells that line the gastrointestinal tract. From the second, the ectoderm, will arise the neurons that make up the brain and spinal cord along with the

54

days

At two months, much of the construction work is done. All the fetus' major organs are in place, ready to grow

**BRAIN**

Still just a collection of cells without any coordinated cognitive function, the brain is, however, encased in the newly formed skull.

**HEART**

It can pump only about 20% of what an adult heart can, but the fetal heart now has valves, shunts and four distinct chambers.

**STOMACH**

Thanks to a steady supply of Mom's nutrient-rich blood, the stomach won't need to digest food until after birth.

**UMBILICAL CORD**

Initially no thicker than a hair, it expands to anchor the embryo to the mother's placenta and also houses the developing intestines.

## SCIENCE

epithelial cells that make up the skin. At the end of Week Two, the ectoderm spins off a thin line of cells known as the primitive streak, which forms a new cell layer called the mesoderm. From it will come the cells destined to make the heart, the lungs and all the other internal organs.

At this point, the embryo resembles a stack of Lilliputian pancakes—circular, flat and horizontal. But as the mesoderm forms, it interacts with cells in the ectoderm to trigger yet another transformation. Very soon these cells will roll up to become the neural tube, a rudimentary precursor of the spinal cord and brain. Already the embryo has a distinct cluster of cells at each end, one destined to become the mouth and the other the anus. The embryo, no larger at this point than a grain of rice, has determined the head-to-tail axis along which all its body parts will be arrayed.

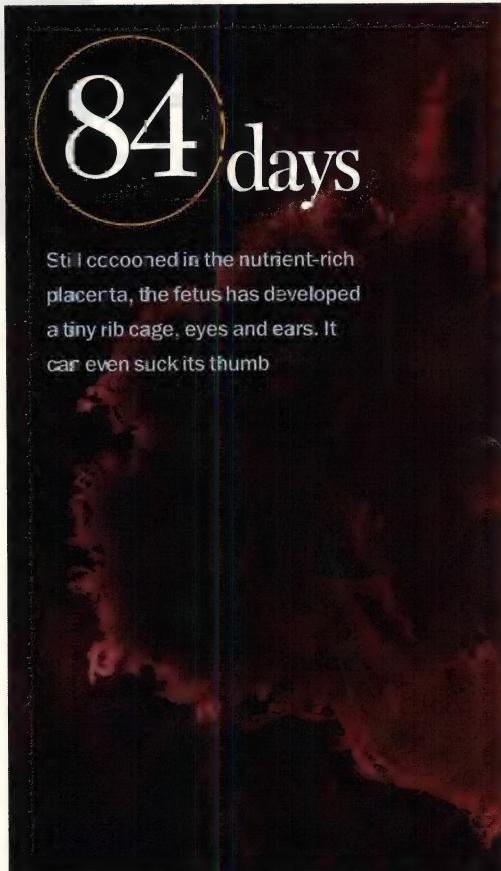
How on earth does this little, barely animate cluster of cells “know” what to do? The answer is as simple as it is startling. A human embryo knows how to lay out its body axis in the same way that fruit-fly embryos know and *C. elegans* embryos and the embryos of myriad other creatures large and small know. In all cases, scientists have found, in charge of establishing this axis is a special set of genes, especially the so-called homeotic homeobox, or HOX, genes.

HOX genes were first discovered in fruit flies in the early 1980s when scientists noticed that their absence caused striking mutations. Heads, for example, grew feet instead of antennae, and thoraxes grew an extra pair of wings. HOX genes have been found in virtually every type of animal, and

while their number varies—fruit flies have nine, humans have 39—they are invariably arrayed along chromosomes in the order along the body in which they are supposed to turn on.

Many other genes interact with the HOX system, including the aptly named Hedgehog and Tinman genes, without which fruit flies grow a dense covering of bristles or fail to make a heart. And scientists are learning in exquisite detail what each does at various stages of the developmental process. Thus one of the three Hedgehog genes—Sonic Hedgehog, named in honor of the cartoon and video-game character—has been shown to play a role in making at least half a dozen types of spinal-cord neurons. As it happens, cells in different places in the neural tube are exposed to different levels of the protein encoded by this gene; cells drenched in significant quantities of protein mature into one type of neuron, and those that receive the barest sprinkling mature into another. Indeed, it was by using a particular concentration of Sonic Hedgehog that neurobiologist Jessell and his research team at Columbia recently coaxed stem cells from a mouse embryo to mature into seemingly functional motor neurons.

At the University of California, San Francisco, a team led by biologist Didier Stainier is working on genes important in cardiovascular formation. Removing one of them, called Miles Apart, from zebra-fish embryos results in a mutant with two non-viable hearts. Why? In all vertebrate embryos, including humans, the heart forms as twin buds. In order to function, these buds must join. The way the Miles Apart gene ap-



84 days

Still cocooned in the nutrient-rich placenta, the fetus has developed a tiny rib cage, eyes and ears. It can even suck its thumb.

pears to work, says Stainier, is by detecting a chemical attractant that, like the smell of dinner cooking in the kitchen, entices the pieces to move toward each other.

The crafting of a human from a single fertilized egg is a vastly complicated affair, and at any step, something can go wrong.



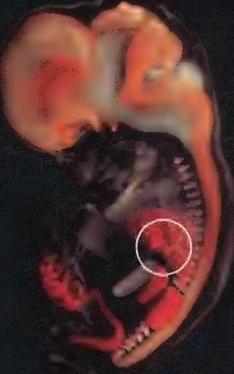
#### ESOPHAGUS

At four weeks, this food pipe separates from the breathing apparatus and eventually connects the mouth to the stomach



#### KIDNEYS

By now, the embryo is working on its third and final set of kidneys, which can already eliminate waste from the blood



#### LUNGS

These begin as buds in Week Four and continue to branch again and again, even after birth, into tiny tubules



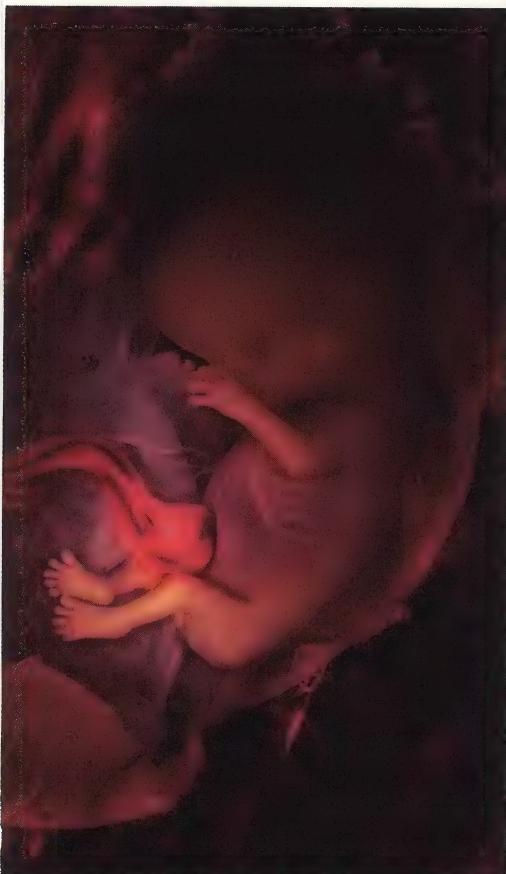
#### VERTEBRAE

Like pearls in a necklace, these spinal segments are strung together with nerves that will connect the brain to the rest of the body



#### LIVER

Until birth, the liver pumps out red and white blood cells. After birth, it starts its real job: processing proteins and fats



When the heart fails to develop properly, a baby can be born with a hole in the heart or even missing valves and chambers. When the neural tube fails to develop properly, a baby can be born with a brain not fully developed (anencephaly) or with an incompletely formed spine (spina bifida). Neural-

tube defects, it has been firmly established, are often due to insufficient levels of the water-soluble B vitamin folic acid. Reason: folic acid is essential to a dividing cell's ability to replicate its DNA.

Vitamin A, which a developing embryo turns into retinoids, is another nutrient that is critical to the nervous system. But watch out, because too much vitamin A can be toxic. In another newly released book, *Before Your Pregnancy*, nutritionist Amy Ogle and obstetrician Dr. Lisa Mazzullo caution would-be mothers to limit foods that are overly rich in vitamin A, especially liver and food products that contain lots of it, like foie gras and cod-liver oil. An excess of vitamin A, they note, can cause damage to the skull, eyes, brain and spinal cord of a developing fetus, probably because retinoids directly interact with DNA, affecting the activity of critical genes.

Folic acid, vitamin A and other nutrients reach developing embryos and fetuses by crossing the placenta, the remarkable temporary organ produced by the blastocyst that develops from the fertilized egg. The outer ring of cells that compose the placenta are extremely aggressive, behaving very much like tumor cells as they invade the uterine wall and tap into the pregnant woman's blood vessels. In fact, these cells actually go in and replace the maternal cells that form the lining of the uterine arteries, says Susan Fisher, a developmental biologist at the University of California, San Francisco. They trick the pregnant woman's immune system into tolerating the embryo's presence rather than rejecting it like the lump of foreign tissue it is.

In essence, says Fisher, "the placenta is a traffic cop," and its main job is to let good things in and keep bad things out. To this end, the placenta marshals platoons of natural killer cells to patrol its perimeters and engages millions of tiny molecular pumps that expel poisons before they can damage the vulnerable embryo.

**A** LAS, THE PLACENTA'S DEFENSES are sometimes breached—by microbes like rubella and cytomegalovirus, by drugs like thalidomide and alcohol, by heavy metals like lead and mercury, and by organic pollutants like dioxin and PCBs. Pathogens and poisons contained in certain foods are also able to cross the placenta, which may explain why placental tissues secrete a nausea-inducing hormone that has been tentatively linked to morning sickness. One provocative if unproven hypothesis says morning sickness may simply be nature's crude way of making sure that potentially harmful substances do not reach the womb, particularly during the critical first trimester of development.

Timing is decisive where toxins are concerned. Air pollutants like carbon monoxide and ozone, for example, have been linked to heart defects when exposure coincided with the second month of pregnancy, the window of time during which the heart forms. Similarly, the nervous system is particularly vulnerable to damage while neurons are migrating from the part of the brain where they are made to the area where they will ultimately reside. "A tiny, tiny exposure at a key mo-



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# 7 months

Both inside and out, development is almost complete. Toenails appear, and the brain already controls body temperature, rhythmic breathing and intestinal contractions

# 8 months

Stored fat insulates the fetus and provides it with an energy source. Dwindling space forces it into the classic fetal position, with arms and legs drawn into the chest

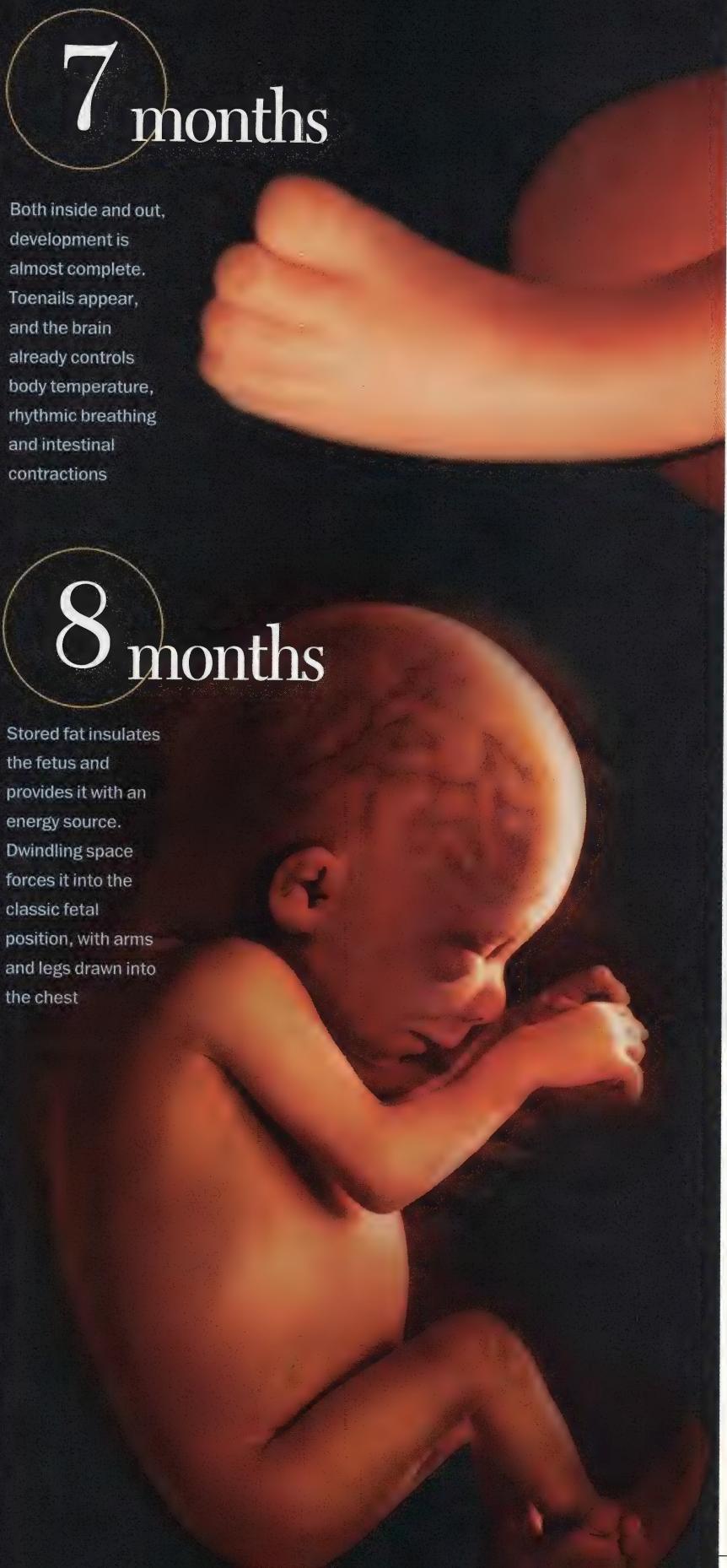
ment when a certain process is beginning to unfold can have an effect that is not only quantitatively larger but qualitatively different than it would be on an adult whose body has finished forming," observes Sandra Steingraber, an ecologist at Cornell University.

Among the substances Steingraber is most worried about are environmentally persistent neurotoxins like mercury and lead (which directly interfere with the migration of neurons formed during the first trimester) and PCBs (which, some evidence suggests, block the activity of thyroid hormone). "Thyroid hormone plays a noble role in the fetus," says Steingraber. "It actually goes into the fetal brain and serves as kind of a conductor of the orchestra."

PCBs are no longer manufactured in the U.S., but other chemicals potentially harmful to developing embryos and fetuses are. Theo Colborn, director of the World Wildlife Fund's contaminants program, says at least 150 chemicals pose possible risks for fetal development, and some of them can interfere with the naturally occurring sex hormones critical to the development of a fetus. Antiandrogens, for example, are widely found in fungicides and plastics. One in particular—DDE, a breakdown product of DDT—has been shown to cause hypospadias in laboratory mice, a birth defect in which the urethra fails to extend to the end of the penis. In humans, however, notes Dr. Allen Wilcox, editor of the journal *Epidemiology*, the link between hormone-like chemicals and birth defects remains elusive.

**T**HE LIST OF POTENTIAL THREATS TO embryonic life is long. It includes not only what the mother eats, drinks or inhales, explains N.Y.U.'s Nathanielsz, but also the hormones that surge through her body. Pregnant rats with high blood-glucose levels (chemically induced by wiping out their insulin) give birth to female offspring that are unusually susceptible to developing gestational diabetes. These daughter rats are able to produce enough insulin to keep their blood glucose in check, says Nathanielsz, but only until they become pregnant. At that point, their glucose level soars, because their pancreases were damaged by prenatal exposure to their mother's sugar-spiked blood. The next generation of daughters is, in turn, more susceptible to gestational diabetes, and the transgenerational chain goes on.

In similar fashion, atherosclerosis may sometimes develop because of prenatal exposure to chronically high cholesterol lev-





# 9 months

This series showing how a baby emerges from the birth canal began with an unusual delivery that required doctors to place the mother in a spiral CT scanner. The images were merged with CT and ultrasound data from other babies to create this re-enacted birth.

## SCIENCE

els. According to Dr. Wulf Palinski, an endocrinologist at the University of California at San Diego, there appears to be a kind of metabolic memory of prenatal life that is permanently retained. In genetically similar groups of rabbits and kittens, at least, those born to mothers on fatty diets were far more likely to develop arterial plaques than those whose mothers ate lean.

But of all the long-term health threats, maternal undernourishment—which stunts growth even when babies are born full term—may top the list. "People who are small at birth have, for life, fewer kidney cells, and so they are more likely to go into renal failure when they get sick," observes Dr. David Barker, director of the environmental epidemiology unit at England's

University of Southampton. The same is true of insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, so that low-birth-weight babies stand a higher chance of developing diabetes later in life because their pancreases—where insulin is produced—have to work much harder. Barker, whose research has linked low birth weight to heart disease, points out that undernourishment can trigger lifelong metabolic changes. In adulthood, for example, obesity may become a problem because food scarcity in prenatal life causes the body to shift the rate at which calories are turned into glucose for immediate use or stored as reservoirs of fat.

But just how does undernourishment reprogram metabolism? Does it perhaps

prevent certain genes from turning on, or does it turn on those that should stay silent? Scientists are racing to answer those questions, along with a host of others. If they succeed, many more infants will find safe passage through the critical first months of prenatal development. Indeed, our expanding knowledge about the interplay between genes and the prenatal environment is cause for both concern and hope. Concern because maternal and prenatal health care often ranks last on the political agenda. Hope because by changing our priorities, we might be able to reduce the incidence of both birth defects and serious adult diseases.

With reporting by  
**David Bjerkie and Alice Park/New York and Dan Cray/Los Angeles**



# On sweeping changes and financial planning.

Vigorous broom sweeping is just one of the many steps in the sport called curling. The goal is to put the “rock” in the “house” – and to keep it there.

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experience a “perfect end.” Curling, like life, is more about pressing on while managing uncertainty. It’s tough to influence 40 lbs of rolling Scottish granite without a plan.

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Dr. David Gratzer

# Are We Boxed in on Health Care?

Many Western countries are finding solutions where Canada dares not look



GEOFF HOWE—MOOSE JAW TIMES HERALD/DICP

**LIFESAVER:**  
A patient gets  
oxygen in a  
Moose Jaw  
medical unit

**S**AY THIS ABOUT CANADA'S AILING HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM: IT may no longer be the best in the world, but it's almost certainly the most studied. With the completion of the work of Senator Michael Kirby's Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, there have now been six major federal and provincial reports on health-care reform in just the past two years. The Kirby report alone spans nearly 1,200 pages. And the big review, of course, is yet to come: the \$10 million effort of former Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow, due for release later this month.

But after all the analysis, one key question remains: Should Canadians be content with a health-care system more rigid than any other in the Western world? Many countries have public systems—and they are embracing reforms that Canadian politicians refuse to discuss.

There's no doubt that all the pulse taking is justified: health

care has become a big issue, polling ahead of all others. Canadians aren't alone in being concerned about it. Health care is a major issue in dozens of other Western countries, as evidenced by recent elections in Germany, Sweden and Britain where health-care reform colored the campaigns.

Why is health care discussed in the pubs of London, England, as well as London, Ont.? It's the combination of escalating technology available at escalating cost. Consider that when Sir William Osler—possibly Canada's most famous physician—taught at McGill at the beginning of the 20th century, there were only four drugs available to a doctor (one of them mercury). Today Prozac alone has more than four sister drugs. Computerized tomography (CT) scanners have been bested by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, which are cut down by positron emission tomography (PET) scanners. Modern surgeries fix everything from sick hearts and worn hips

to fetal abnormalities—correcting problems even before birth.

These advances carry a heavy price tag. Economist John Goodman of the National Center for Policy Analysis calculated that if every U.S. citizen went to his family doctor and requested all available blood tests, it would cost more than his country's entire gross domestic product. And Americans—as well as Canadians and Europeans—are interested in much more than blood tests.

Then there are demographics to consider. The high-tech, high-expense medical revolution is transforming health care just at a time when more of us need more health services. Medicare was first debated in the House of Commons in the 1960s, when the median age of our population was 25 or younger. Today we're approaching a median age of 40—and getting older quickly. Again, this trend is widely seen. In Florida, the land of sunshine and retirees, 18.5% of residents are 65 or older. And Canada will have this proportion of elderly citizens by 2021. France will hit Florida-type levels of elderly by 2016, Germany sooner still—in 2006.

The question for governments, then, is how to salvage health care amid the twin onslaughts of advanced medicine and aging—thus the endless reports. But what is more singular than all the investigation is, in Canada at least, how little difference there is in what the investigators have to say.

Much has been made of the war of words between Kirby and Romanow, who have publicly and spectacularly disagreed over the issue of Canadian Medicare's sustainability. Ultimately, though, it's a lovers' quarrel. Romanow and Kirby each prescribe a set of reforms that boils down to a prescription for greater efficiency in delivery within the context of a public-sector monopoly; primary-care reform (read higher salaries for doctors); and an emphasis on prevention to keep down demand. Even on the key issue of sustainability, little separates the duo: Kirby feels that Medicare as currently organized is unsustainable and wants a new federal spending binge (through a new tax) to save it; Romanow disagrees that Medicare is headed for the morgue—but still likes the idea of more cash.

Absent from both is a sustained interest in looking at health-care improvement through the lens of market-based reforms. And yet many countries have been doing just that.

Consider one such European country—faced with growing waiting lists and public angst—that decided to privatize several health services. It started with laboratory and ambulance services. After realizing cost savings of 50% and 15%, respectively, Country X kept going. Other privatizations have included

home care and administration. Finally, local-government officials sold a major hospital to a for-profit company. Estimated cost savings approach 20%. Which nation embraced these allegedly right-wing reforms? Answer: socialist Sweden.

And why? Eva Fernvall, chairwoman of the Swedish National Union of Nurses, explains that "in today's society, the old model no longer works. Now there is a need for flexibility, entrepreneurship and new channels to let loose the complexity of supply and demand."

There are many more examples of privatization in Western Europe. In France more than a third of all hospitals were created as private institutions, and several public institutions are being privatized. In Germany only a few hundred of the country's roughly 1,700 public hospitals will remain in state hands after a current round of reforms is completed in 2015.

A number of European countries have also introduced that bugaboo, patient cost sharing. Visit a doctor in Stockholm, and you can expect to pay \$20. In France and Ireland the situation is the same. All Western European countries allow private health insurance, as do New Zealand and Australia. In fact, the Australian government recently announced plans to penalize wealthy citizens who don't buy private coverage.

But Canada continues along the path we have followed for 30 years: more spending and more government-control. The biggest idea proposed by Kirby is a major new federal involvement in home care. Romanow appears to favor an even broader role for Ottawa, including publicly funded pharmacare. Both investigators propose to expand the Medicare house as a way of dealing with its sinking foundation.

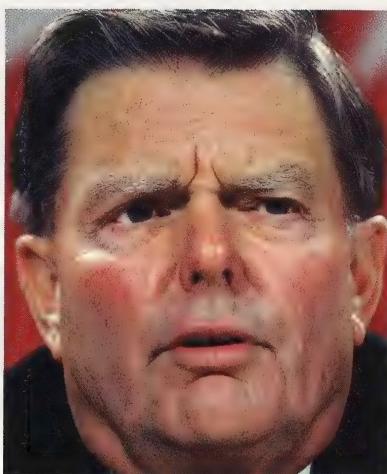
In short, at a time when Canadian reformers discuss new taxes and new federal health programs as a cure for the medical crisis, other Western countries with strong social-democratic traditions are experimenting with changes that we seem to feel, without giving them much consideration, are taboo. But consider the results. Across Canada, health spending is at a historic high, and waiting lists are longer than ever. In Stockholm, since the market reforms began eight years ago, waiting times have fallen by two-thirds with only modest increases in spending.

The irony is that Canada's health policy was once innovative. Unfortunately, today we're not much interested in what works.

*Dr. David Gratzer is the editor of Better Medicine, an essay collection on health policy published earlier this year*



**ROMANOW:** Sustainable Medicare



**KIRBY:** Foresees medical meltdown

PHILIPPE DE CHAMPAIGNE, *TRIPLE PORTRAIT OF CARDINAL RICHELIEU*, CIRCA 1622

# The Cardinal Rules

A glorious show pays homage to Richelieu and the art that got his blessing

By RICHARD LACAYO MONTREAL

**G**OD CREATED THE WORLD; VERY nice. But who would not rather be Cardinal Richelieu? He invented France. Granted, when Armand-Jean du Plessis, Duc de Richelieu, arrived in power in 1624 as chief adviser to Louis XIII, the French people were already in place, and a long line of French kings had already ruled them. But it was Richelieu who forged the modern French state, the vessel that would foster the nation's precious civilization and convey its imperial ambitions. It was Richelieu who made *glory* the byword of French national life.

That is why he deserves a museum exhibition as commanding as "Richelieu: Art and Power," which runs through Jan. 5 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. A canny survey of French culture in the Cardinal's era, which lasted until his death in 1642, it has the kind of intelligence that can reorder your thinking about culture and politics while providing the luster of *la gloire* in every gallery.

As a man of very worldly preoccupations, Richelieu may not have been much concerned with art for its own sake. For that matter, for a prince of the Roman Catholic Church he was none too absorbed in questions of faith. His religion was power, and in that realm he was genuinely de-

vout. His great goal, and one that he achieved, was to bind the semiautonomous fiefdoms of France—Gascony, Lorraine and so on—into a centralized state under an absolute king. Stammering, irresolute Louis XIII was nobody's choice for that role, but no matter. In Richelieu's model of the ideal state, just behind the king there was, well, Richelieu.

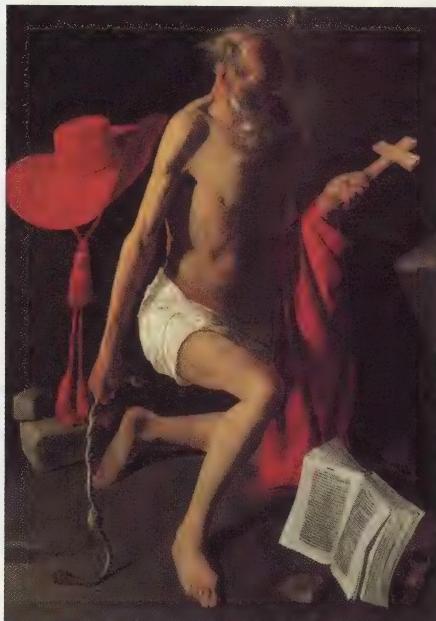
To refashion France along the lines he had in mind would require the agile Cardinal to subdue the independent local nobility, vanquish the French Protestants and confront the competing Catholic powers of Hapsburg Austria and Spain. He also needed to mobilize the French people, in particular a nobility still jealous of the powers

they were ceding to Louis. And what better than pictures and monuments to teach the lessons—about obedience to the King and loyalty to church and nation—that he needed all of France to learn? The Counter-Reformation had directed artists to give drama and force—to lend awe—to the Catholic faith in its competition with Protestantism. Richelieu drafted them to do the same for the state.

The man was not Stalin. He could not impose by fiat an artistic policy on the nation. But by his authority and his example, his intentions radiated outward through the French arts. So at the Palais Cardinal, one of his two magnificent residences, Richelieu commissioned a long portrait gallery of eminent figures in French history, including himself, all chosen to make that history seem a prelude to the idea of a supreme monarch. Most of these assignments he gave to Philippe de Champaigne, his favorite painter, whose poised, upright figures had the serene authority the Cardinal preferred.

Hilliard Todd Goldfarb, the associate chief curator at the Montreal museum, who organized the show, argues in the catalog that Richelieu was more interested in art than is generally supposed. Certainly Champaigne was a painter whose sober compositions—softened sometimes, but only sometimes, with the elegance found in Van Dyck—spoke to the Cardinal's own sobriety. Champaigne rejected the fevered, lashing figures of Baroque art. So did Richelieu, who preferred a classicism that he hoped would make France seem a nation in harmony with the order of the universe, its power as securely founded as the laws of gravity. Richelieu could also appreciate the restrained energies of Nicolas Poussin, who brought to French art the motifs and manner of classical antiquity—order, balance, lucidity.

As for the Baroque, with its wrestling bodies, its tornadoes of action—everywhere it threatened to dissolve into the disorder that the Cardinal hated. All the same, he was a court politician. The rhetoric of the High Baroque had been introduced to France by Simon Vouet, who had learned it while studying in Rome. But Vouet was Louis's chief court painter, and Richelieu under-



GEORGES DE LA TOUR  
THE PENITENT ST. JEROME, 1630-32

stood that he could not be ignored. A good thing too, since Vouet's explosive canvases are the great pleasures of this show. His portrait of the medieval warrior Gaucher de Châtillon, seen from behind with his head cocked back grandly over one shoulder, makes Champaigne's nearby figures look like a petrified forest. Richelieu presented another Vouet, *The Apotheosis of St. Louis*, as a gift to a Jesuit church in Paris. With its storm clouds of drapery and pinwheeling gestures, it would have been everything Richelieu disliked in art. But it contains precisely the energies that French painting needed as a corrective to its already emerging academicism and the rigor mortis of classicism too rigidly applied.

One of the centerpieces of the Montreal show is a gallery in which a marble bust of the Cardinal by Bernini appears beside an unusual triple portrait of Richelieu by Champaigne. Bernini, who never met Richelieu, carved the bust in Rome, using

Champaigne's painting as the basis for his work. On the long rectangular canvas, a tight-lipped, three-quarter view of the Cardinal's face is flanked by his beak-nosed profiles. When the finished bust arrived in Paris, Richelieu found it a poor likeness, but to modern eyes it has a suppleness he failed to see. It captures the subdued qualities the Cardinal wished to be known for—serenity, rigor, clarity—but expresses them within an elongated silhouette in which the Cardinal's long, bowing collar, beautifully carved, softens his fastidious expression.

What should we make of the fact that in his bedroom Richelieu kept *The Penitent St. Jerome*, an anguished portrait by Georges de la Tour, painted with the spotlighted drama that La Tour had learned from Caravaggio? The saint, who was also a Cardinal, has stripped off his red robes. In his hand is the bloody whip he uses to scourge himself. Richelieu had no use for contrition; he thought it discouraged the man of action. And La Tour's style was too theatrical for him. All the same, the great man recognized that he had sins, of pride especially, to account for. So here's to sin—if that's what it took to get him to put aside his own taste to admit great pictures like this one. ■



SIMON VOUET  
APOTHEOSIS OF ST. LOUIS, 1641

MOVIES

# When Harry Meets SCARY

**The new Potter is a lot darker and seeks a new audience: older kids**

By JESS CAGLE

**A**T LAST IT CAN BE TOLD: DESPITE THE \$900 MILLION IT made at the global box office, despite its ranking as the highest-grossing film of 2001, director Chris Columbus was not entirely happy with *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. "I always thought we could have gotten the visual effects better," he says. The pacing of the film, he admits, was a bit sluggish. "The first 40 minutes of the first *Harry Potter* film were introductions."

On Nov. 15, when the bespectacled wizard returns in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, based on the second novel in J.K. Rowling's blockbuster series, U.S. fans will see a bolder, more menacing, faster-paced movie—and to put it bluntly, a better one. "It's more of everything," says Daniel Radcliffe, 13, who once again plays Harry with brainy subtlety (but whose voice has dropped a good octave). "And it's a lot darker."

It is also much scarier. The movie mirrors the progress of Rowling's books, which become more sinister and intense as they go along. In the new film, a

dead cat is hung in a hallway at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry; children are frozen stiff (or "petrified") by a monster; Harry and his sidekick Ron (Eupert Grint) are attacked with surprising violence by a monstrous Whomping Willow after crash-landing in its gnarled branches in a flying car. Later, they're chased through the Forbidden Forest by an army of giant spiders.

Warner Bros. was afraid that the movie would receive a PG-13 rating—a dangerous proposition, since *Potter's* most devoted fans are preteens. Just as important, the core consumers for *Potter* toys, which generated about \$500 million in sales last time around, range in age from 7 to 11. Instead, the film is conveniently PG, like its predecessor.

Still, the filmmakers are eager to let you know that your children may be afraid, very afraid. "I would strongly caution parents," says Columbus, "anyone who has a 7-year-old or younger, to make sure they know what they're getting into."

His warning is the cinematic equivalent of a parental advisory on

PETER MOUNTAIN—WARNER BROS. (5); ELF: COURTESY ILM—WARNER BROS.



1



2



3



4

A large, close-up photograph of Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) wearing his Gryffindor robe and glasses, looking upwards with a shocked expression. The background is a dark, cloudy sky.

## CHAMBER PLAYERS

Daniel Radcliffe, left, returns as Harry, along with old friends and new faces

1. Kenneth Branagh joins the cast as vain Hogwarts teacher Gilderoy Lockhart
2. Rupert Grint is the same old Ron Weasley, but his voice has deepened
3. Dobby, a computer-animated elf, makes his screen debut
4. Emma Watson reappears as Hermione Granger
5. Tom Felton is back, and meaner than ever, as Harry's nemesis Draco Malfoy

A circular inset portrait of Tom Felton as Draco Malfoy. He is wearing a dark Slytherin robe and tie, looking intensely at the camera with a serious, slightly malicious expression. A small number '5' is in the bottom right corner of the circle.

5



**THE FACULTY** From left, Maggie Smith, Miriam Margolyes, Richard Harris and Alan Rickman keep watch at Hogwarts when a monster from a hidden chamber threatens the students

music, a not entirely unintentional come-on to older teens and young adults who thought the last *Potter* film skewed too young. In the posters for *Chamber of Secrets*, Harry looks intense, and he's holding a sword. It's an image designed to appeal to older audiences, the same moviegoers who embraced the other movie franchise launched a year ago, *Lord of the Rings*.

The competition between *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter*—the sibling rivals of the AOL Time Warner entertainment family—is intense. Last year's *Fellowship of the Ring*, the first of three J.R.R. Tolkien-based movies to be released by the company's New Line division, came in second at the box office behind *Harry Potter*. Unlike *Potter*, however, it ended up on numerous critics' best-of-the-year lists and received 13 Oscar nominations, including Best Picture. (*The Sorcerer's Stone* received only three.)

This time it's widely assumed in Hollywood that *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, set for release on Dec. 18, will outgross *Chamber of Secrets*. *Potter* mania seems to have quieted a bit, in part because Rowling hasn't published a novel in two years. (The author says she will deliver the fifth of an eventual seven *Potter* books in 2003.) While *Sorcerer's Stone* pulled in \$318 million domestically, this one is expected to make closer to \$250 million—still an impressive number. And it will undoubtedly win the merchandising race. *Potter* toys are already selling briskly, and stores have even reported shortages of Lego's *Chamber of Secrets* tie-ins, according to Jim Silver, publisher of *Toy Witness* magazine. *Lord of the Rings'* merchandise has also been successful, but less so because of its older audience and later release date.

Going into his second year at Hogwarts, Harry is more heroic, and so is Columbus. While he was accused of being too slavishly faithful to Rowling's book the first time around, in *Chamber of Secrets* the director gives his imagination freer rein. In the new film, Quidditch—the ball game played by young witches and wizards on broomsticks—is as exciting as a car chase. Harry's showdown with a terrifying serpent surpasses even the most imaginative readers' expectations. It all adds up to a 2-hr. 42-min. movie—9 min. longer than *Sorcerer's Stone*. "The length didn't seem to

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

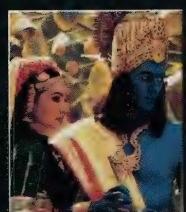
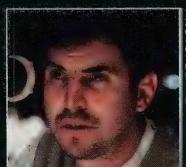


### OUT Chris Columbus

Directing the *Potter* films is "an intense emotional and physical workout every day," says Columbus. He'll sit out the third movie so he can spend more time with his family.

### IN Alfonso Cuarón

Warner Bros. liked his 1995 film, *A Little Princess*, a very different kind of genre from Cuarón's most recent movie, *Y Tu Mamá También*, a sexually explicit film about teenagers. The studio was also impressed, according to Columbus, with "the way he dealt with those young actors in those situations."



be an issue last time," says Columbus, "but I wanted this film to feel as if it moved much quicker."

The movie still feels too long at times; that's the price you pay for seeing so much of the book on screen. But the inexperienced young stars are much livelier than before. This is especially true of Emma Watson, 12, as the know-it-all little witch Hermione Granger. While filming *Sorcerer's Stone*, Columbus often stepped into the scene, just off-camera, and coached the actors line by line. "I do a little of that now," says Columbus, "but they can literally get through entire sequences without me interrupting them."

Some things in *Potter's* world, though, haven't changed. Production designer Stuart Craig's Diagon Alley—the teetering jumble of Tudor and Georgian magic shops—is still standing. The original cast is intact, including Maggie Smith as Professor McGonagall, Robbie Coltrane as Hagrid and, as the wise Professor Dumbledore, Richard Harris. The Irish actor, who suffered from Hodgkin's disease, died at age 72 on Oct. 25. No word yet on who might replace him, but the character does appear in the third *Potter* flick, *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, which will go into production in early 2003.

With each movie, Rowling seems to be stepping back; Columbus says she did not visit the set of *Chamber of Secrets*. "I think she was busy writing the fifth novel," he says. "She's there if we need her, but she trusts us now." The author did give her blessing when it came time to find a new director for *Prisoner of Azkaban*. Says Columbus, who will shift to executive producer on the next movie: "I really thought halfway through the second one, 'It's been almost two years since I've had dinner with my family during the week.'"

His replacement is Alfonso Cuarón, a surprising choice, since his most recent film was *Y Tu Mamá También*, this year's racy, critically hailed Mexican road movie about two teenage boys and an older woman. But Cuarón also has experience adapting the works of esteemed British authors—Frances Hodgson Burnett (1995's *A Little Princess*) and Charles Dickens (1998's *Great Expectations*). *Prisoner of Azkaban* isn't scheduled until mid-2004, so there will be no new *Potter* film next year. This will allow Radcliffe to spend time in a normal school rather than with tutors on the set. Though the world is watching Radcliffe grow up onscreen, he insists, "not much has changed." Except that his world is becoming scarier. —With reporting by Aisha Labi/London

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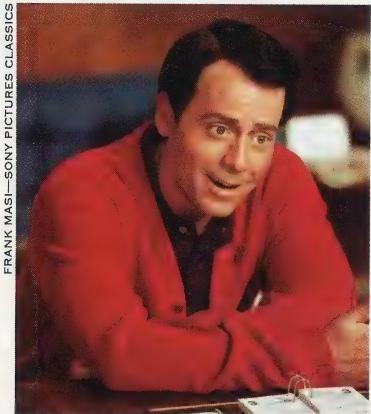
## What should we do when our neighbour goes to war?

- Offer our best soldiers
- Stand firmly by UN resolutions
- Send out an army of diplomats
- Sit on the fence

*Watch. Then decide.*

# Sex, Secrets and Videotape

*Auto Focus* tells Bob Crane's sad tale, *8 Women* features fab femmes, and *The Ring* is awfully creepy



FRANK MASI—SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

**I**N THE '60S, BOB CRANE (GREG KINNEAR) WAS AN L.A. disc jockey. Then he became the star of the TV series *Hogan's Heroes*. In due course, abetted by a video geek named John Carpenter (Willem Dafoe), he became a sex addict. This destroyed his career. Reduced to the dinner-theater circuit, he met lots of willing women and took pictures of them in flagrante with the equipment Carpenter supplied. Then he was murdered, almost certainly by Carpenter. *Auto Focus* tells this story as affectlessly as we just have. It's a conscious aesthetic choice by director Paul Schrader, not an accident of ineptitude. But no matter—his objectification of sad and stupid material is neither tragic nor transgressive. It is just undramatic and uninvolving.

—By Richard Schickel

**I**MAGINE A MURDERED MAN IN THE UPSTAIRS bedroom and the *8 Women* in his life left to decide whodunit. What would they do? Bitch, bitch, bitch—and then break into song. François Ozon's color-coordinated catfight assembles eight fabulous femmes (Catherine Deneuve, Ludivine Sagnier, Virginie Ledoyen, Danielle Darrieux, Isabelle Huppert, Firminé Richard, Emmanuelle Béart and Fanny Ardant) for a game of hide-and-shriek, with each star given a guilty secret and a solo chanson. Ozon, the bright hope of French pop cinema (*Water Drops on Burning Rocks*, *Under the Sand*), lets the gals get a bit too chatty and catty. But he knows how to dress them in glamorous frocks and attitudes. Seduction is more important than deduction in this chic display of star quality to the eighth power.

—By Richard Corliss



JEAN-CLAUDE MOREAU—FOCUS FEATURES



MI. MORTON—DREAMWORKS

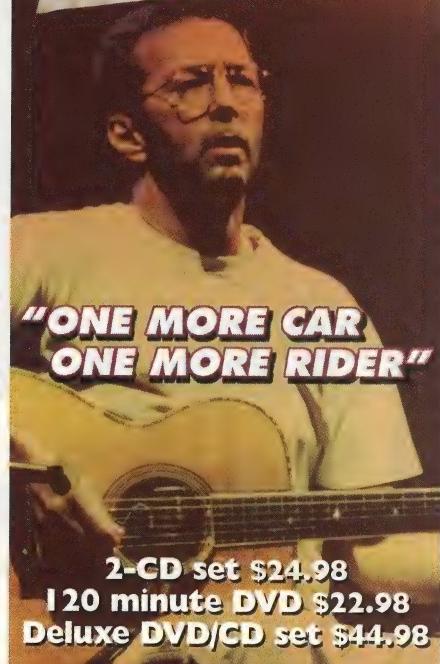
be a problem. What she discovers is a conventional mother-child psychodrama that doesn't persuasively match up with the film's supernatural elements. You keep waiting for someone to explain who shot, edited and distributed the Buñuel-on-a-bad-day video. The result is an edgy, watchable film, but one that makes you feel more squeamish than screamish.

—R.S.

Rock's greatest living guitar legend

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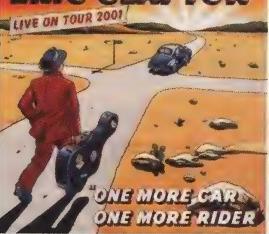


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# Eminem's 8 Mile High

## SHOW BUSINESS

Yes, he can act. In a powerful new film, the rapper brings his signature intensity to the big screen

By RICHARD SCHICKEL

**H**IS MOTHER LIVES HAND TO MOUTH in a grim trailer park. His girlfriends are mysteries to him. He works a dead-end job in a stamping factory. His pals are street dumb, clueless and infinitely distractible dreamers hanging around one of the bleakest slums anyone has ever dared to place on film—Eight Mile, the road that separates Detroit's essentially black ghetto from the white world.

Jimmy (Eminem) is a white guy with a gift for hip-hop, that blackest of pop-music genres, who has the implausible dream that his art might lift him out of hopelessness. That was once the dream of Eminem, who comes from the same place and the same harcscrabble background. With his music, Eminem succeeded beyond any fantasy. Now his screen debut shows that he has it in him to become an authentic movie star. He's a kid with the ability to put

a sullen but seductive face on an open heart.

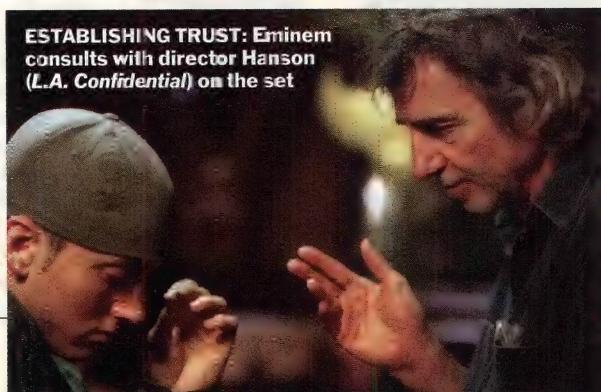
His acting has the potential to draw in, even enchant people to whom hip-hop has been just a scary blare of rage emanating from the car drawn up next to them at a stop sign. Against their better judgment, they may even respond to the good nature, even the innocence, of this movie, its desire to—well, yes, let's use the deadly word—educate us about a world of scabrous lyrics and occasional murderous violence.

*8 Mile* borrows from the *Star Is Born* syndrome: talented tyro overcomes unlikely origins, his own insecurities and the world's indifference to emerge a winner. But the movie, wisely, doesn't push that conceit too far. Yes, when we meet Jimmy, he has choked before going into "battles" at a local rap den, unable even to open

his mouth and exchange rhythmic insults with his opponent. And yes, having spent the week in other kinds of battles (some of them bloody) with his peers, his lovers, his mother's feckless housemate, his boss and his broken-down car, he wins his next rap battle—spitting vicious venom against a time clock. But the movie leaves him striding down a dark street alone with his thoughts. Does he have the will and the skill to follow the path the man playing him followed—from the street to the local clubs to recording to fame and fortune? We don't know.

And that's pretty much where the film's lead producer, Brian Grazer, and director, Curtis Hanson, want to leave us. Grazer was into hip-hop well before he launched this project. He says he first saw Eminem as the camera panned the audi-

ESTABLISHING TRUST: Eminem consults with director Hanson (*L.A. Confidential*) on the set



ence at some music-award show and in those few seconds sensed his sexy charisma—which was not much on display at their first meeting. Eminem sat silent, avoiding Grazer's eyes, for a solid 15 minutes before venturing a few muttered words. "His indifference to me, to Hollywood, were palpable," the producer recalls.

But they eventually agreed to develop a script (by Scott Silver), and with Eminem attached, Grazer went looking for an A-list director. And there was Hanson. "I wanted someone who would give me the kind of adrenaline hits [he delivered in *L.A. Confidential*]," says Grazer. For his part, Hanson saw his main job as establishing trust with his star. He scheduled a long rehearsal period and began to see that Eminem had what movie stars have—"the ability to find some part of themselves in anything they

play." Maybe that was a little easier for Eminem because *8 Mile* was made entirely on his native ground. It is not directly autobiographical, but spiritually he could certainly connect with Jimmy's struggle.

Hanson connected to that struggle too. The director, who used two-camera, handheld coverage throughout (his director of photography was Rodrigo Prieto, whose work electrifies this film as it did *Amores Perros* in 2000), fell in love with the "spirit" of *8 Mile* during his 4½-month Detroit shoot. He found the area "truly moving" and wanted "to give voice to" its humor, its refusal to be battered down by the miserable circumstances that this movie does not evade. "It's like a flower struggling through a crack in the cement," Hanson says. The club where the hip-hoppers battle was once a church. Now, says Hanson, "it's another

kind of church"—obscenely secular, yet also a place where a very fundamental community comes raucously together. Ultimately, he believes that Eminem's biracial appeal derives from the fact that what he's rapping about is issues of class, not race.

*8 Mile* is not a documentary; it's a populist movie. Beneath its tough—no, filthy—talk and rough look, it is a fairy tale that—and this ought to be enough irony for the snifliest Postmodernist—the unlikely career of its leading man proves can come true. There's something old-fashioned and dauntless about the way the film pushes past our initial resistance to its setting and subject matter, past pain, past defeat, to make this point. Because it rejects easy victories, this may be one of the few inspirational movies that could actually inspire someone, somewhere, sometime. ■

## ALBUM REVIEW

## The Sound Track of His Life

By JOSH TYRANGIEL

The two great sound tracks of the rock-'n'-roll era—*Saturday Night Fever* and *Purple Rain*—could not be more different musically. The Bee Gees stole vocals from the Chipmunks and beats from the Casablanca records catalog to define disco, while Prince stole moves from James Brown and licks from Jimi Hendrix to define himself. Yet both albums, and the movies that spawned them, are about the same thing: talent overcoming apathy to talent. Tony Manero wants to rule the world's dance floor; Prince wants to rock it. Ambition is a subject to which every artist can relate, and it's no wonder that it inspired the Gibb brothers' best song, *Stayin' Alive*, and Prince's most human album.

*8 Mile* is also about talent struggling for recognition, with the added wrinkle of the talent being a white artist yearning to be taken seriously in a black genre—a quandary also faced by Paul Barman and the Streets (see Music). Eminem runs with the theme and delivers *Lose Yourself*, the best song of 2002

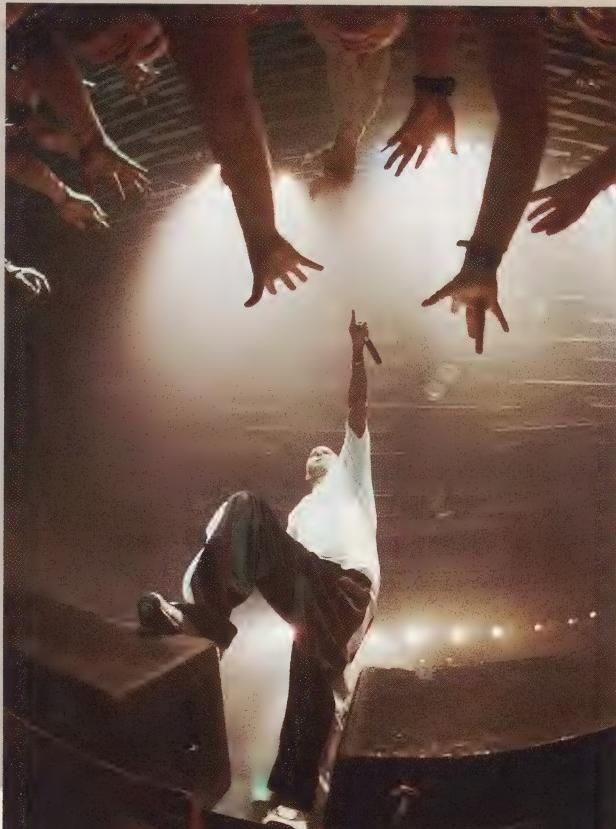
so far. *Lose Yourself* starts with a dreadful keyboard solo, but then a guitar riff kicks in, a bass drum thumps and Eminem starts telling his—and his character's—story. The song is about working hard, trusting your talent and succeeding against the odds when opportunity presents itself because, hey, there's no other choice. The chorus ("You better lose yourself in the music, the moment/ You own it, you better never let it go") reads like a Tony Robbins script, but it flies out of Eminem's mouth in about three seconds, and every word is spectacularly clear and intense. For the first time, Eminem isn't angry; he's hungry, and his desire to make something of himself is as inspiring as the first *Rocky* movie.

*8 Mile*'s title track is also about breaking through. Eminem spits an astonishing 1,100 words in *8 Mile*'s six minutes, and though some of them are film clichés—"Sorry mama, I'm grown/ I must travel alone/ Ain't gonna follow no footsteps, I'm making my own"—it's still a powerful song. The music on both tracks (produced by Eminem) is intentionally simple. Three

guitar chords, a few keyboard tinkles and the snap of a snare build tension in the verses and explode into every chorus. It's refined arena rock, but it works.

The problem with *8 Mile* is fairly simple: not enough Eminem. He performs on only five of the album's 16 songs, and in one he is part of his hardcore junta/spin-off group D12. The rest of the album is filled out with solid tracks from the likes of Jay-Z, Nas and Rakim, but since their rhymes lack the

confessional roar of Eminem's, the middle of the album sags. In fans' minds, these excess tracks will inevitably be forgotten and *8 Mile* will be remembered as an Eminem album (just as *Saturday Night Fever* is recalled as an album by the Bee Gees, even though they contributed only six songs). Inevitably too, *8 Mile* will be hailed as the first great rap sound track. It doesn't quite deserve that honor, but Eminem makes it awfully close. ■





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# Deeper Shades of Pale

Paul Barman and Mike Skinner show that white rappers come in a variety of lyrical hues

**D**URING A RECENT APPEARANCE ON Black Entertainment Television, Justin Timberlake underwent a curious vocal transformation. An interviewer asked Timberlake if he was excited to be releasing a solo album. He responded, "Is soooo excitin'. Fuh me, music is Marvin Gaye an' Stevie Wunda. Thas *mah* music!"

When white performers work in a traditionally black medium—R. and B., in Timberlake's case—they sometimes presume they've got to put on a kind of blackface, thereby turning themselves into insulting caricatures of what they're trying to emulate. But not everyone plays the game that way. Ivy League MC Paul Barman and British prodigy Mike Skinner, a.k.a. the Streets, are white guys who love rap. They also understand it enough to know that the best rhymes come from a distinctive voice—their own.

Barman graduated from Brown University in 1997 and released an independent single called *Enter Pan-Man* about a kid who gets horn and hoof implants, becomes a rap star and retires to Westchester County. *Paullelujah!*, Earmen's first full-length album, is a 45-min. tour of his id. Barman is sex obsessed ("I would keep a tidy room for Heidi Klum"), a proud Jew, a would-be grad student who name-checks Noam Chomsky. *Paullelujah!* has a song called *Burping & Farting*. It also has a track in which Barman dexterously raps, "Who's responsible for the predictable results of our actions? I only know fractions of facts and the interested fac-

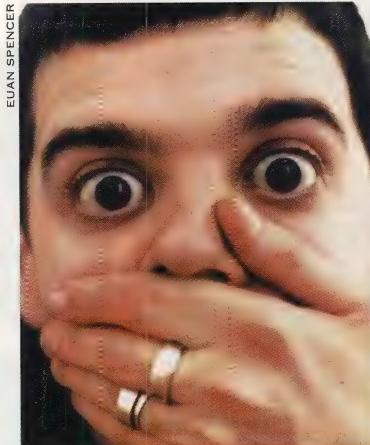
tions don't use flags/ They use logos/ We'll know the real rogues by wherever the dough goes."

Barman's chief subject is himself, but his passion is wordplay. As he says on *Excuse You*, "I'm the ne plus ultra of B+ culture." His voice is high and a little irritating, but in contrast to Eminem, his humor is self-deprecating and his love of rhyme is infectious.

Skinner doesn't rap so much as narrate. He has a jagged baritone and a dramatic Brummie accent that he unfurls quietly, purposefully, as he talks about the sad avenues of the Midlands (thus his handle, the Streets).



**SHY GUY:**  
The Streets' rap is grim, deliberate



**SMART GUY:**  
Barman digs wordplay—and himself



KAREN SPITZER

Skinner's debut, *Original Pirate Material*, is full of observations that haven't emerged from the Bronx or South Central. His universe has violence and drugs, but the real threat is desperation. On *Too Much Brandy*, Skinner imitates a series of neighborhood drunks who choose drinking over living; on *Stay Positive*, he says, "Stop dreaming/ People who say that are blaspheming/ They're doing 9-to-5 and

moaning/ And they don't want you succeeding when they've blown it."

There are great lyrical snippets—"We first met through a shared view/ She loved me, and I did too"—but the material is as grim as a BBC documentary. What keeps you going is Skinner's voice. Most rappers rhyme on or near the beat; he rambles in the spaces between keyboard samples and drums, emphasizing the most unexpected phrases. Skinner's life may be an ill-favored thing, but it is all his own.

—By Josh Tyrangiel

# Let's work together against hunger

The human family now has 6 billion members. Every single one has the right to live in good health and dignity.

And yet nearly 800 million people still don't have enough to eat.

Hunger can be ended if we each make a commitment in our hearts to help. Then we must work together to make it happen.

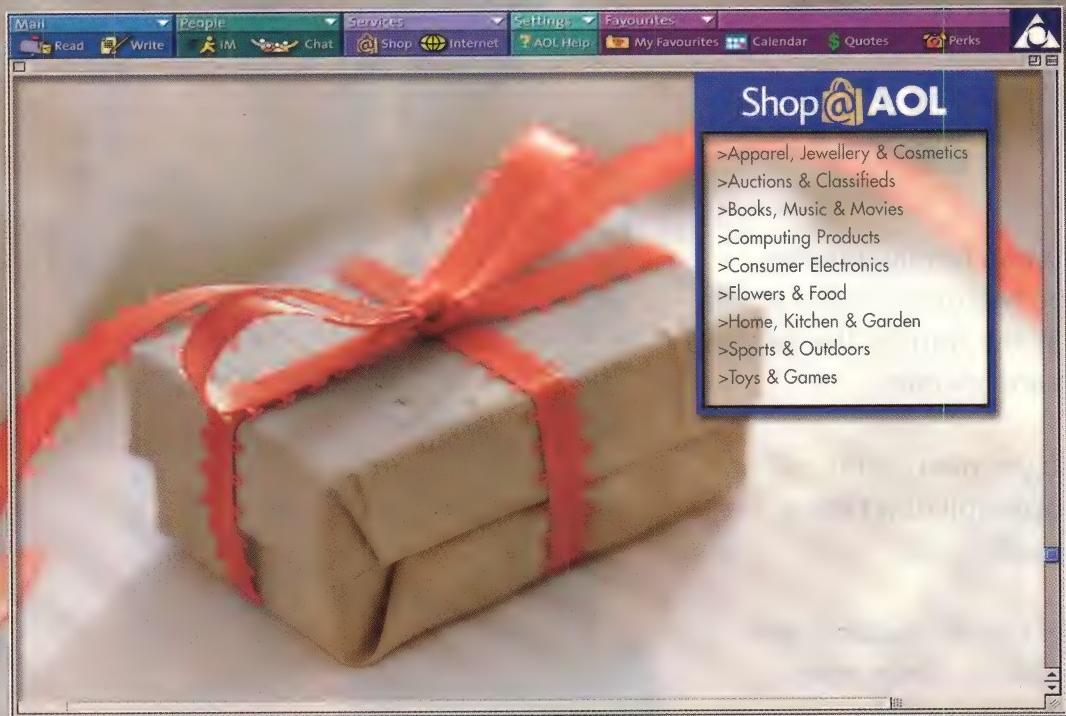
**Gong Li**  
Actress



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# How to Avoid Getting Sick

"Tis the season to get the sniffles. There's more to protecting yourself than just getting a flu shot **By Sanjay Gupta, M.D.**

**A**LTHOUGH I GET MY FLU shot regularly, I still manage to contract at least one nasty bug each year. The shot reduces your chances of getting influenza up to 90%, but you don't have to stop there. You can significantly improve the odds of staying healthy by following a few simple rules.

First, you need to know what you're up against. In addition to the flu, the average adult suffers anywhere from one to three respiratory illnesses a year, nearly all of them caused by viruses and most of them occurring in the cooler months. Cold weather also tends to bring out the kind of bad habits—from overindulging at parties to letting exercise routines slide—that make the body more susceptible to infection.

The reason we get colds isn't directly linked to cold weather, of course. It's that we spend more time indoors with other people and their germs. If you really wanted to make sure you never suffered another cold, you would avoid all contact with other people as well as anything they had ever touched. And you would certainly abandon those ritual handshakes and cheek pecks. Why? Respiratory viruses, including

those that cause flu, are highly contagious and can survive for hours on skin, furniture, doorknobs and the like.

If you're not ready to become a hermit or a germophobe, you can do what we doctors do before we meet a patient: lather up. "Good hand washing will do more to prevent the spread of illness and respiratory infections than anything else," says Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez, of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Although recent studies have found no difference in the effectiveness of alcohol-based gels, antibacterial soaps or plain soap and water, my vote still goes to the alcohol gels. They're much easier to carry around and, unlike antibacterials, they won't foster the development of resistant germs.

Some people swear by humidifiers, believing that they help prevent cracks in the

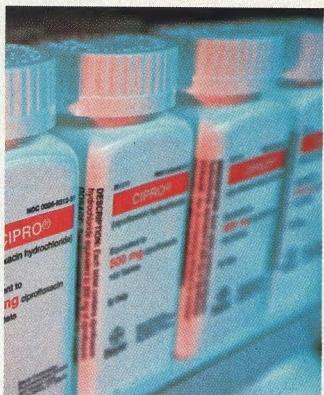
dried-out lining of the nostrils that can let germs in. But if you use a humidifier, be sure to refill it daily with distilled water, as it can harbor bacteria. And you should be aware that too much humidity can make you more susceptible to viruses.

Family get-togethers and holiday parties can also be hazardous to your health. Try to stick to your regular sleep routine, and if you must drink alcohol, do so in moderation and follow it with plenty of water. Lack of sleep and dehydration both tend to suppress your body's natural abilities to fight off illness.

Of course, you could do everything right and still get sick. Prescription drugs like Tamiflu and Relenza can shorten flu infections by a day if you start taking them within 48 hours after symptoms appear. (Their greatest benefit may arise when others take them to keep from catching your flu.) There's some evidence that 1,000 mg of vitamin C may act like an antihistamine and lessen the severity of cold symptoms. Chicken soup is still a great way to get

your liquids, but make sure it's clear, not creamy, or you could end up irritating your intestinal lining. If all else fails, just remember that warmer weather is right around the corner.—*With reporting by A. Chris Gajilan/New York*

*Dr. Gupta is a neurosurgeon and a CNN medical correspondent*

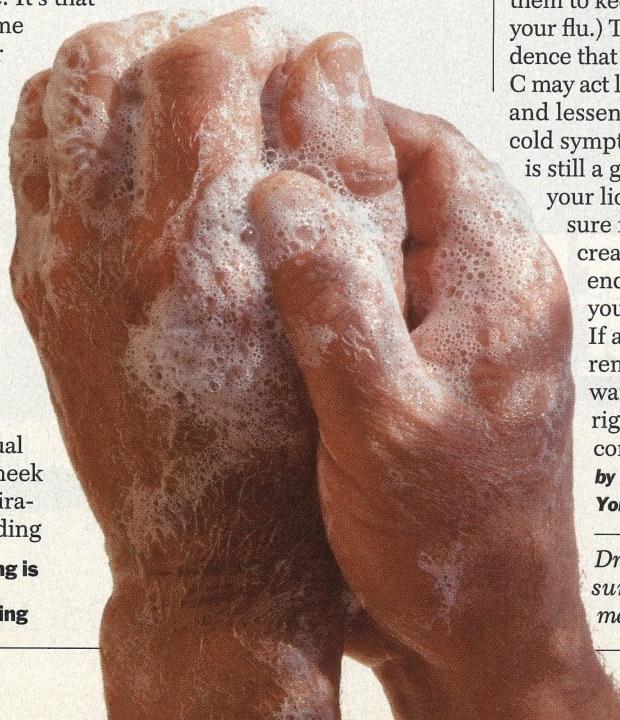


**GOT CIPRO?** In the wake of the anthrax attacks that killed five last year, public-health officials protectively prescribed antibiotics to 9,300 Americans. But only 44% completed the full 60-day course. Of those who took their medicine, 57% reported side effects, 16% sought medical attention and 9% were told to stop. The study found that the main reason people didn't finish their pills was that they felt their exposure risk was low.

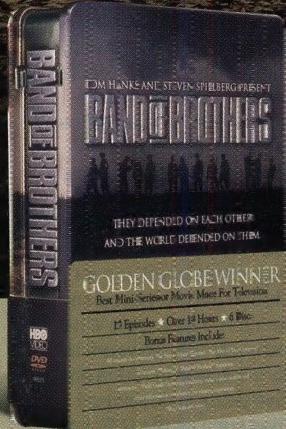
**BLUES BUSTER** They were an early and powerful class of antidepressants, but monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) fell out of favor because they could trigger nasty reactions. There may be new life in the old drugs, however. A study now finds that when the medicine is delivered via a transdermal patch, effectiveness remains high while side effects are low.

**GRIM REAPERS** Fifty six million people die each year and, according to the World Health Organization, 10 risk factors account for 40% of the deaths. WHO's Top 10 list begins with hunger and ends with obesity. The others: unsafe sex, high blood pressure, tobacco, alcohol, bad water and poor sanitation, high cholesterol, indoor air pollution and iron deficiency. Eliminate these, says WHO, and you could add 16 years to healthy life spans in Africa and up to five years in developed countries such as the U.S. and Japan.

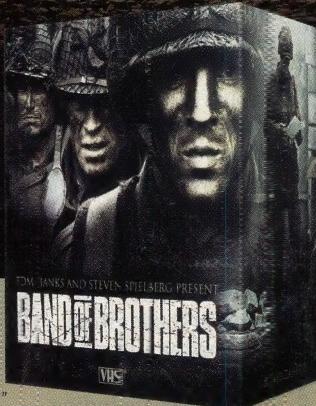
—*By David Bjerkie*



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THEY ENDED IT AS HEROES.



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## A GEST MOST UNWELCOME

One can hardly have overlooked the fact that **Liza Minnelli** is back. For starters, her new live show and just-released CD are both called *Liza's Back*. Then there was the 1,000-guest wedding in March, which seemed designed more as a public spectacle than a private ritual. But while Liza may have returned to the public's consciousness, she will not be visiting our living rooms. Capitalizing on her revived popularity, she signed up to star in a reality show for VH1 with new husband **David Gest**, the curiously well-preserved music producer who Svengaled her resurgence from drug dependency, illness, copulence and obscurity. The show, conceived to document Minnelli and Gest socializing with their celebrity friends, was canceled before it ever aired because VH1 found Gest impossible to work with. He allegedly denied camera crews access to his wife and made unreasonable demands on crew members (he insisted they wear surgical booties inside the apartment). Though the network lauded Minnelli for her cooperation, don't look for the *David's Back* special on VH1 anytime soon.

## WINONA WATCH: THE TRIAL BEGINS

If nothing else, the shoplifting trial of **Winona Ryder** should set some legal precedent about the validity of the Method-acting defense. A Saks Fifth Avenue security guard testifying for the prosecution said Ryder claimed she took over \$5,000 worth of clothing and accessories without paying because she was researching a part for a film. A guard also testified that she peeked into the dressing room (those things aren't private?) and saw Ryder cutting off sensor tags. When it

was time for the defense to make its case, Ryder's lawyer said the guards had fabricated evidence in an attempt to frame a movie star.



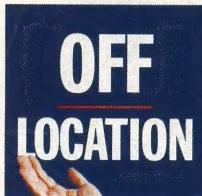
ROBERT GALBRAITH—REUTERS



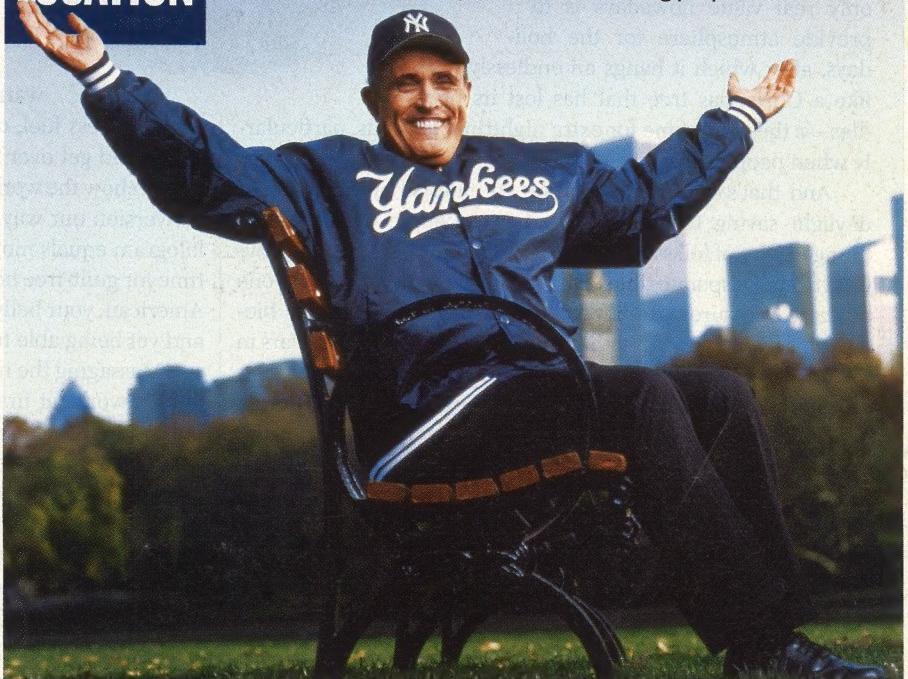
MATTHEW PEYTON—GETTY IMAGES

## LEST YE BE JUDGED

Judges, by definition, make judgments, a fact that apparently eluded New York City DJ **Angie Martinez** when she signed on to join the three returning judges of *American Idol* for its upcoming second season. The show, which winnows down a group of would-be pop stars each week, was a ratings behemoth last year, owing in large part to the withering reviews panelist Simon Cowell unleashed on lesser contestants. Martinez dropped out after a week, saying "It became too uncomfortable for me to tell someone else to give up on their dream."



There's no place like New York, except Montreal. For a TV movie about former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, USA Network is filming in Canada, which is cheaper. The movie stars James Woods as the mayor. Giuliani has no connection to the film—and he would never sanction taking jobs away from the hardworking people of New York.



MICHAEL O'NEILL—CORBIS OUTLINE

Walter Kirn

# Gloom, Gloom, Go Away

Winter brings darkness we don't need right now. So let's change the rules

**I**T HAPPENS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE EVERY YEAR around this time: the days grow short, and people get depressed. Both breakfast and dinner are consumed in darkness, and sometimes even the latter half of lunch. By 5 p.m. in the northern tier of the U.S., cars and trucks are driving with their high beams, and by 7 the brightest objects in the landscape are television screens in living-room windows flashing news of the latest random shooting or reminding the public to get its flu shots. The official start of winter in late December may still be six or seven weeks away, but the psychological winter has begun, triggered by the waning of the light.

This year, with so many other things to fret about—terrorism, the threat of war, a potential double-dip recession and a widespread jumpiness that causes every noise louder than a twig snap to resound in the mind like an atomic blast—I'm wondering if we can afford the added burden of protracted physical gloom. Nighttime is a bad time (ask ancient man, who feared the world was ending with every eclipse), and winter—whose only real value nowadays is to provide atmosphere for the holidays, after which it hangs on endlessly like a Christmas tree that has lost its needles—is the worst time for extra nighttime to occur, particularly when people already feel so glum.

And that's why I'm proposing an emergency extension of daylight saving time, whose ending a couple of weeks ago plunged a lot of folks I know into a funk they still haven't recovered from. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and one of these measures, traditionally, has been to goose our生物rhythms by monkeying with the clock. We did it for two years in World War I, when daylight saving time was first brought in as an energy-conserving measure. We resumed the practice in World War II (when the government called it War Time) and made it permanent in the '70s during the Arab oil embargo. Finally, in 1986, President Ronald Reagan lengthened DST by about three weeks—just for the feel-good heck of it, apparently. And while no direct link has ever been demonstrated between an extra dose of evening sunlight and the health of the financial markets, the Dow did climb after the change. Once we spring forward into sunlit winter evenings, we may never want to fall back.

Time, or at least its formal measurement, is a human in-

vention, so we have every right to adapt it to our moods. Indeed, why stop with expanding our afternoons at the expense of our useless early mornings, when so many of us are stuck in traffic? How about borrowing days from future leap years so as to create a whole new month? American life has grown nerve racking and hectic, and adding 30 days of paid vacation dedicated to running to the dry cleaners, deleting unsolicited e-mails and roughhousing on the carpet with the kids might just be the therapy we need. If Enron can grant itself billions in phantom revenues, why can't America award itself a phantom lunar cycle? To reduce the threat of terrorism dur-

ing our relaxing sabbatical, we could even keep the month a secret from the rest of the world. If we slot it in between March and April we'd also have more time to pay our taxes.

While we're cooking the calendar to lift our spirits, we might also finally adopt the metric system. Besides reassuring Europe that we're still civilized, this would have several emotional benefits. Because there is not an American alive who knows what temperature it really is when degrees are stated in Celsius, worries about global warming would abate. Also, our cars would

consume less fuel, or seem to. SUVs that now get 14 miles per gal. would get over 20 km per gal. (Hanging on to our gallons would show the worldwide metric community that we'll do this conversion our way, thank you very much). Lastly, because a kilogram equals more than 2 lbs., we'd all lose weight—just in time for guilt-free holiday feasting. Imagine being a full-grown American, your belly loaded with Thanksgiving carbohydrates, and yet being able to tell folks, "I weigh 80."

Massaging the numbers never works for long, but it almost always works at first. And feeling better at first is what's important in this season of homegrown terrorist cells and flagging consumer confidence. In much the same way that failing businesses "raise" share prices by reverse-splitting their stocks, America could fight the winter blues by officially starting spring on Jan. 1 instead of in mid-March, when it rarely feels very springlike anyway. Waiting for the vernal equinox to usher in the season of rebirth may be fine for Druids and astronomers, but the rest of us could use a rebirth soon. Not to mention some daylight to watch the evening news by. ■

